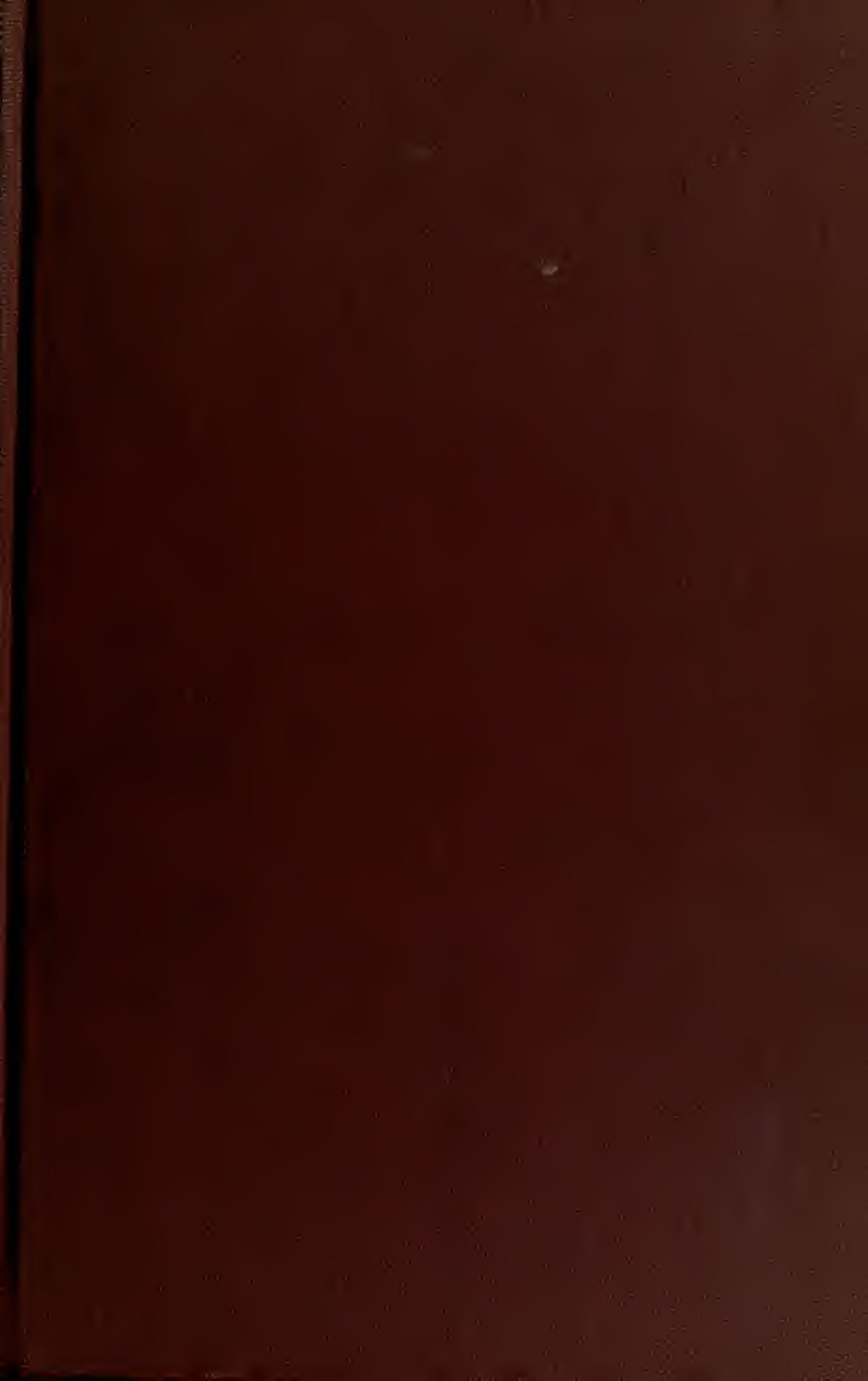
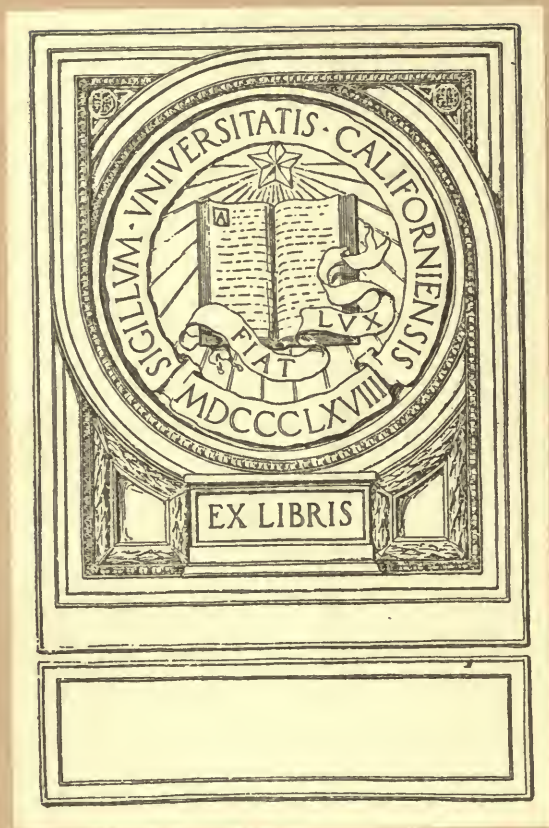








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Russia, Extraordinary com. of inquiry

Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry appointed by order of His
Majesty the Emperor of Russia.

The German and Austro-Hungarian troops break the rules of the Geneva Convention of 1906, whereby inviolability was guaranteed to sanitary institutions and non-combatants, protected by the Red Cross, and which in Russia are under the august patronage of Her Majesty the Empress, Marie Feodorovna.

I.

The present publication contains information acquired by the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry as the result of investigation into unwarranted acts of aggression committed against members and property of the Red Cross by the German and Austro-Hungarian troops at the seat of war, in violation of the Geneva Convention of 1906.

In spite of the fact that the Imperial Governments of both Austro-Hungary and Germany recognized the resolutions of the Geneva Convention as binding, those resolutions have been completely ignored by our enemies from the very beginning of hostilities. It very soon became a common occurrence for sanitary establishments of the Russian Army to be fired upon by German and Austro-Hungarian troops, for bombs to be dropped into them from enemy aeroplanes, and for persons in the service of these establishments to be otherwise attacked in the performance of their duties. These attacks on inoffensive workers under the aegis of the Red Cross

became so frequent that even before the appointment of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, His Imperial Highness Prince Alexander Petrovich Oldenburg, the supreme authority in the Russian Empire over all sanitary arrangements and the evacuation of the sick and wounded, found it necessary to take some steps in the matter. His Imperial Highness accordingly addressed a circular, under date of the 2/15-th of January 1915, to the central committees of Red Cross societies in all countries, not excepting Germany and Austro-Hungary, and that circular contained a protest against the enemy's breach, in this respect, of the universally admitted laws and usages of war.

This protest from His Imperial Highness Prince Oldenburg failed, however, to produce the desired effect. There was no cessation of these attacks with bombs from aeroplanes and rifle and artillery fire on Russian hospitals, lazarettos, sanitary trains and transports. They not only went on as before, but their constant repetition became so systematic as to leave no room for doubt that in an overwhelming majority of cases, at least, these attacks were specially directed against Russian sanitary establishments and servants of the Red Cross, and that they only formed part of a general plan adopted against us by the Austro-Hungarian and German Governments for the conduct of this campaign.

All sites, buildings and trains occupied by Russian sanitary bodies and detachments are invariably indicated by distinctive signs and flags of the Red Cross, and this fact alone offers sufficient confirmation of the conviction that in every single case of firing upon these sanitary bodies and Red Cross detachments our enemy is actuated by the deliberate and sole design of damaging the means of transport of the Red Cross, of injuring its personnel and the wounded soldiers under the care of its medical officers and attendants. The plea of necessity put forth by our enemy on account of local military conditions and surroundings, in which his troops are called upon to operate, is no justification whatever for such attacks, because it is perfectly evident that in no conceivable situation or circumstances can an establishment of the Red Cross be in any way dangerous for the successful development of military operations.

Taking, however, into consideration the possibility of accidental damage and injury, the Extraordinary Commission has enquired into each case with special regard to the elucidation of this particular point. Eye-witnesses have, therefore, been examined, not only with the object of ascertaining the distance from which the establishments referred to were fired upon, and as to whether there was a sufficiently noticeable display of signs and flags of the Red Cross, but also for the purpose of reviewing all the circumstances of each separate case with respect to the possible presence in the immediate vicinity of the establishments and trains thus attacked, of bodies of Russian troops, who might have represented the principal aim of the enemy's fire.

With due observance of these conditions, the Extraordinary Commission has collected evidence, which includes attacks made on Russian sanitary establishments and detachments by means of artillery and rifle fire and also by bombs dropped from aeroplanes, and the particulars thus obtained fully confirm the belief that the acts complained of were intentional and premeditated.

A few examples of such cases are here subjoined.

1) On the 14-th of August 1914, in East Prussia, the Germans directed a violent artillery fire upon a car full of wounded Russians going into Soldau, as well as on the town itself and the house in which the wounded men were subsequently lodged. This took place in full view of Red Cross signs and flags exhibited on the car and the house. The result was that many of the disabled soldiers were killed, and others received fresh and serious wounds. (Case № 5).

2) On the 25-th of August 1914, in the province of Liublin, a field lazaretto near the village of „Vuisokoe“ was fired at from a distance of 1200 paces by Austrian artillery, although the distinctive emblem of the Red Cross was displayed over the spot, and the Austrians continued to fire at it even after the lazaretto had caught fire from explosion of the shells. Altogether, about 200 of the wounded men in the lazaretto were destroyed by this attack. (Case № 159).

3) On the 29-th of August, at a village named Trempen in East Prussia, a bomb was thrown down from an enemy aeroplane

upon the positions occupied by ambulance detachments of the 49-th Artillery Brigade and the 159-th Georgian regiment, in spite of conspicuous Red Cross flags attached to lofty poles. The bomb exploded about 50 paces from the detachments. An eye-witness named Eugene Petrovich Karpoff, senior Doctor of the 40-th Artillery Brigade, states the aeroplane circled round over the spot a long time before dropping the bomb, although there were no Russian troops or military transports in the neighbourhood that could have attracted the aeronaut's attention. (Case № 16).

4) At the end of August 1914, near Eydtkuhnen in East Prussia, a Red Cross sanitary train, freighted with wounded men going towards the Russian frontier, was attacked with rifle fire by a detachment of German troops, in a wood near the railway line, at a distance of not more than 35 feet. In order to stop the train these Germans pitched hand grenades on to the line, and when the train had been brought to a standstill they concentrated their fire upon it. According to the evidence given by one of the eye-witnesses, Egor Ponamarev, senior subaltern of the 228-th Kulikov regiment, there were Red Cross flags on all the carriages of the train, and the Germans could not help seeing them. The same witness declares that not more than 30 out of the 300 wounded soldiers in the train succeeded in escaping with their lives, as the Germans also fired at several soldiers, who left the carriages and tried to hide themselves in the wood. (Case № 92).

5) On the 8-th of October 1914, in Galicia, 3 bombs were thrown down from an enemy aeroplane on to № 2 ambulance and victualling point of the Red Cross near the station „Sambor“, and also on to a sanitary train, which was leaving the station with a large number of wounded men. The splinters of the exploded bombs killed the sanitary attendant Maligin and injured Doctor Neikarkh, attendant Zuckerman and sisters of mercy Eremina and Sokolskaya. At the moment when this aeroplane made its appearance there were no bodies of Russian troops near the railway station, and the Red Cross flags were displayed on the tops of the railway carriages and on the buildings occupied by the Red Cross detachment. The aeroplane circled round the station a long time before throwing out the bombs. (Case № 8).

6) On the 13-th of October, in Galicia, several Red Cross ambulance stations on the bank of the river San, south of Yaroslav, were attacked by Austrian artillery fire. There were no detachments of Russian troops, or military transports in the vicinity of these ambulance camps and very large Red Cross flags were displayed from the tops of very high poles. (Case № 11).

7) On the 3-rd of December 1914, during the fighting near Lodz, an ambulance of the 40-th Artillery Brigade, located at Malochew and protected by the regulation flags and emblems of the Red Cross, was attacked by the enemy's artillery fire from field and heavy guns, although there were no Russian troops in the neighbourhood, who could have been the object of this attack. The intentional character of this onslaught was especially noticeable when the ambulance detachment began to retire from the position, for as soon as the Red Cross carts, owing to the irregular and broken nature of the ground, disappeared from the enemy's view, his artillery fire ceased, but immediately the first cart reappeared in sight on higher ground the firing was renewed. (Case № 17).

On the 11-th of December 1914, at about one o'clock in the daytime, when, in consequence of the retirement of the Russian troops, the 1-st Odessa Kasperov mobile lazaretto on the public square of Kielce was preparing to leave the town, three enemy aeroplanes made their appearance overhead, flying comparatively low, and began to throw down bombs. The first bomb was thrown on to the transport train of the lazaretto and wounded the sanitary attendant Klukoff and Doctor Maitko, who died six days afterwards. In the centre of the group of transport wagons there was a pole with a Red Cross flag $1\frac{1}{2}$ square arshines in width. (Case № 29).

On the 2-nd of February 1915, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, in the government of Suvalki, № 1 lazaretto of the 64-th infantry division, when passing through the village of Sukhorzhechky, was fired at by a German detachment with explosive bullets in spite of the Red Cross flag exhibited by the men in charge. On this occasion a driver named Krakov and sanitary attendant named Bezpalko were injured. (Case № 41).

At Ostrolenko, on the 11-th of March 1915, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, bombs were dropped from enemy aeroplanes near

the railway station on to the position occupied by № 526 mobile field hospital and victualling point of the Red Cross. At the same time the aeroplanes attacked the sanitary trains Nos. 31 and 121. Altogether about 100 bombs were thrown down, with the result that 12 men of the hospital staff were killed on the spot and about 20 more were wounded.

From the above mentioned date of the 11-th of March right down to the 2-nd of April daily attacks were made by German aeroplanes on the Russian sanitary establishments in this district. These daily attacks by bomb throwing were particularly systematic over the positions in the village of Voitzekhovich, occupied by hospitals of the barracks of the 22-nd Nizhegorodsky infantry regiment. During the time named the aeroplanes frequently attacked № 526 hospital above referred to, and also the mobile field hospitals numbered 527 and 513, and the Grodensky and Vladivostoksky mobile lazarettos of the 10th Rifle division.

According to statements made by eye-witnesses, these hostile aeroplanes were flying so comparatively low when their bombs were thrown down that it was impossible for their pilots not to see the Red Cross flags and signs exhibited on the sanitary establishments, which they were attacking, especially as some of the flags had purposely been made more than usually large. For instance, according to the superintendent of the mobile hospital № 527, ensign Anatole Dolgov, the roof of the premises occupied by this hospital was surmounted by a Red Cross flag, which measured about 25 square arshines, so that there could be no mistake or misunderstanding as to the privileged character of the building. Nevertheless, and in spite of flags and distinctive signs exhibited in conspicuous places, the attacks on these sanitary establishments continued, and sometimes as many as 80 bombs were thrown at them in the course of a single day. (Case № 9).

On the 19-th of March 1915, in the daytime, an aerial flotilla of the enemy appeared over Yaslo and began to throw bombs into the town. One of the enemy aeroplanes left the others and began to circle round above the field lazaretto outside the town. It then threw down 4 bombs, which killed several of the wounded men and re-wounded several others. This lazaretto was protected by Red Cross

flags on poles, which, in sunny weather, and at a comparatively low elevation, must have been seen by the men in the aeroplanes. (Case № 170).

On the 11th of April 1915, in the village of „Grod“ in Galicia, a bomb was thrown down from an enemy aeroplane, flying comparatively low, upon a house used as a hospital, and on the roof of which there was a very large flag of the Red Cross. The bomb exploded only a few steps away from the hospital. (Case № 168).

On the 17th of April 1915, at the time of the Russian retreat from Galicia, the village of „Dembitsa“, the location of the 117-th field reserve hospital, was attacked by an enemy flotilla of air ships, which began to throw down bombs exclusively on to the spot occupied by the said hospital. In all, 50 bombs were dropped, and from such a low elevation that in the opinion of an eye-witness, Catherine Josephovna Slushnik, the pilots who threw down the bombs could not help seeing the Red Cross flags on long poles which marked the spot. The explosion of the bombs injured Doctor Sviderski and the sister of mercy, Catherine Slushkin, above mentioned. (Case № 47).

14) On the 23-rd of April 1915, in Galicia, a sanitary train, loaded with wounded soldiers at the railway station of Yaslo, was attacked by bombs thrown down from an enemy aeroplane, which also dropped bombs on to the hospital tents near the station. The attack lasted about half an hour, during which time 28 bombs were thrown down. The train and the tents were distinguished by proper signs and flags of the Red Cross. (Case № 106).

15) On the 6-th of May 1915, another sanitary train of wounded men, while standing at the station of Tsyekhanov, was attacked by an enemy aeroplane, which threw down upon it 6 bombs. Four of the wounded men in the train were killed. The Red Cross sign was exhibited on the roofs of the railway carriages at the time. (Case № 169).

16) On the 11-th of May 1915, three bombs were thrown down from an enemy aeroplane on the 158th mobile field hospital near the railway station of Naselsk. By the explosion of these bombs injuries were inflicted on a soldier named Atrozshkin and a peasant named Komarovsky.

The same hospital was subjected to a second attack from a German aeroplane on the 11th of June 1915, when the watchman of the tents, Sorokin, was wounded. This hospital was protected by Red Cross flags on high poles, and there were no Russian troops or military transports near the hospital to be attacked by the enemy's aeroplane, either on the first or second occasion. (Case № 61).

17) On the 17-th of May 1915, at about 6 o'clock in the evening, a German aeroplane threw down a bomb from a height of 1000 metres upon an ambulance camp of the Red Cross, close to a siding of the Strinsk railway line, near the station of Khodorovo. Three large flags bearing the sign of the Red Cross were floating over the tents at the moment of the attack. Sub-lieutenant Alexander Bredis received a contusion from the explosion of the bomb, and out of 25 wounded soldiers some were killed and others injured. Most of the victims had been wounded in the last battle and were waiting for the arrival of a sanitary train. (Case № 52).

18) On the 17-th of the same month of May an enemy aeroplane threw down two bombs upon a sanitary train, which was being filled with wounded men near the station of „Stri“. The carriage roofs of this train were distinguished by Red Cross flags as usual. Four of the wounded soldiers were killed and 15 others received fresh injuries. (Case № 116).

19) On the 18-th of May 1915 three enemy aeroplanes attacked the 1st automobile sanitary column of the Russian Red Cross Society on the public square of the town of Mostsisk, on the southwestern front. Twelve bombs were thrown down on to this position. Although no members of the detachment suffered, 12 other persons were killed and 18 wounded by the bombs, which exploded 15 or 20 feet off from the automobiles.

Ensign Gabriel Alexandrovich Vuirubov, who was in charge of this column, states that at the time of the attack of the aeroplanes there were no bodies of Russian troops, or military transports in Mostsisk. All the automobiles had Red Cross flags, and on the top of one of them a large red cross was painted on a white ground covering a space of about six feet. Some days before the attack the aeroplanes continually cruised about in the air above

Mostsisk, and putting all these circumstances together, Ensign Vuirubov came to the conclusion that this onslaught of the enemy's aeroplanes on the Red Cross detachment was undoubtedly premeditated and intentional. (Case № 35).

20) On the 8-th of May, in Galicia, at 7 o'clock in the evening, at the station of „Khodovichi“, during the entrainment of wounded men into the sanitary train № 95 of the South-western Provincial Zemsky Committee, an enemy aeroplane made its appearance overhead. The commandant of the station thereupon ordered the train to start off in order to avoid an attack, but as soon as its departure was observed by the pilot in the aeroplane, the latter flew off in hot pursuit after the train and soon caught up to it. When apparently over the centre of the train, the flying machine dropped a bomb, but at that very moment the engine driver, who was on the watch, stopped the train, with the result that the bomb exploded in front of the locomotive. The train then returned to the station of „Khodovichi“. After a short interval two more aeroplanes hove in sight, and again the train had to leave the station. These two aeroplanes followed after the train like the first one, describing a circle above it, and when the train was again stopped they were joined by the first aeroplane, which was observed by the engine driver to be preparing to throw out another bomb. The driver, however, gave a quick start to the train, and the bomb exploded some 200 feet behind the end of it. The aeroplanes then disappeared, and the train went back to the station and finished taking in the wounded. Red Cross flags were displayed on the carriages of the train, and crosses were painted on the tops of some of them. (Case № 31).

On the 21-st of May 1915 bombs were thrown down from an enemy aeroplane upon a spot occupied by the tents of a mobile detachment of the Red Cross, about 20 versts from the village of „Bukovina“ in Galicia. There were no Russian troops in the immediate neighbourhood, and close to the tents large Red Cross flags were displayed on lofty poles. (Case № 167).

On the 24-th of May 1915 an enemy aeroplane threw down bombs at Yavorov on to a building occupied by a Russian lazaretto which was distinguished by the proper flags and signs of the Red

Cross. Two of the doctors on duty were killed by the explosion of one of the bombs. (Case № 167).

On the 26-th of May 1915 a bomb was dropped from an enemy aeroplane on to sanitary train № 1132, standing on a siding at the station of Vuishkov. The bomb exploded at carriage № 25, which contained 16 sick and wounded soldiers. The explosion of the bomb killed the sanitary attendants Anton Kravchik and Casimir Mataikis, and wounded the sanitary attendant Gordyei and sister of mercy Eugenie Levasheva. Various injuries were received also by eight of the sick men in the train.

It has been ascertained that the Red Cross sign was painted on the sides of all the carriages composing this train, and on the top of three of them, when the aeroplane attack took place, there were tin flags revolving on pivots and painted white with a red cross in the centre.

According to the evidence of sanitary attendant Mileikovsky, who watched the flight of the aeroplane, the latter made a sharp turn towards the train in order to throw down the bomb. (Case № 28).

On the 4-th of June 1915, at the station of „Razvodovo“ in Galicia, a German aeroplane made an attack on sanitary train № 154, belonging to the general organisation of the Russian nobility and dropped six bombs from a not very great height. This train, like all the others above referred to, was properly distinguished by flags and signs of the Red Cross. At the time of the attack the station had already been evacuated, and there were no Russian troops present. This must have been known to the enemy, as frequent reconnaissances had been made by his aeroplanes over the station for some days previously.

On a line with the foregoing valuable information, and as characteristic of our enemies and of the cruel consistency with which they continue to carry out the principle of „inflicting the greatest possible injury upon the enemy“, we would call attention to the cases of firing upon Russian Red Cross assistants after a battle, when they go forward in front of the positions to attend to the wounded. Of the many cases of this kind, which have come to the knowledge of the Extraordinary Commission, the following are reproduced as examples.

At the beginning of November 1914, after one of the fights in the region of the Mazura Lakes, two Russian stretcher-bearers went out to pick up the wounded on the battle field, about 200 paces from our trenches. They had hardly got to the spot where the wounded men were lying, when the enemy opened a violent rifle fire against them. The Germans were not more than 400 paces away from the Russian trenches, and they certainly must have seen the Red Cross brassards on the arms of the Russian sanitary assistants, who, it may also be mentioned, carried no weapons whatever. (Case № 115). In the same way, Russian sanitary, or Red Cross attendants were fired at on the 10-th of February 1915 in the Carpathians, near the village Priluk, when one of them was wounded, (Case № 97), and in April of the same year, in Galicia, near the village „Golovetskoe“. (Case № 115). The following instance is still more characteristic: — on the night of the 22-nd of May 1915 detachments of the 319-th Bugulminsky infantry regiment, after having crossed the river Prut on a pontoon bridge, were obliged to discontinue their advance and entrench themselves at the foot of a hill occupied by troops of the enemy. A very hot fire was poured into the Russian trenches from early morning, and an order was issued to remove the wounded at once to the rear. In executing this order the Russian Red Cross men had to carry the wounded back across the river over the aforesaid pontoon bridge. As soon as this evacuation of the wounded began, the Austrians immediately directed their fire on to the bridge, although there were no Russian troops on it, and none were on the opposite side of the Prut. The Austrians, who were only between 600 and 700 yards off from the bridge, must have seen that the men, who were going across, carried stretchers and were in attendance on the wounded. The firing was carried on with explosive bullets and shrapnel, whereby many of the wounded men were killed and some of them received fresh injuries. Several of the stretcher-bearers were also wounded. (Case № 103).

II.

According to article 9 of the Geneva Convention of 1906—„persons appointed exclusively for picking up, transporting and healing „the sick and wounded, and also persons belonging to the administration of sanitary institutions, shall be protected in all circumstances. In the case of their falling into the hands of the enemy „they shall not be treated as prisoners of war“. Article 12, which defines the rights and duties of the above mentioned persons, when in the power of the enemy, runs as follows;—„persons referred to in „articles 9, 10 and 11, who have fallen into the hands of the enemy, „shall continue to perform their duties in conformity with his instructions; when there is no longer any need for the assistance of „such persons, they shall be returned to their armies, or repatriated, „at such times and by such routes as military necessities may „require; at the same time they shall have the right of taking with „them their things, instruments, weapons and horses, which are „their own personal property“.

The clear and definite sense of the above quoted resolutions has been absolutely flouted by the action of our enemies in this campaign, for those enactments establish the principle that persons in the service of sanitary institutions of an army may not be made prisoners. Their personal property must also be respected, and only as an exception, and in the interest of the wounded, may the enemy make temporary use of members of these organisations, who have been captured on the field of battle. Our foes have most consistently ignored these resolutions from the very first days of the war. It is a matter of common knowledge that individuals, as well as entire detachments of men and nurses belonging to the Russian Red Cross, have frequently been taken into captivity and treated with all the rigours of the regime applied to ordinary prisoners of war. The large number of such cases alone strengthen the conviction that, in this respect, the higher authorities in command of the Austro-Hungarian and German armies are carrying out a definite and prearranged system of action.

The evidence of numerous persons released from captivity presents a vivid picture of the physical and moral sufferings, which they were forced to undergo as prisoners of war in Germany:—cruelty, insulting treatment, insufficient food and sleep, vexatious and useless searching,—such have been the conditions which Russian medical men and sisters of mercy have had to submit to in all cases as prisoners among the Germans. This evidence is no less characteristic of the enemy's views of property belonging to prisoners in the service of the Red Cross.

With regard to this category of infringement of the Geneva Convention, the Extraordinary Commission gives the following examples.

On the 7-th of August 1914, at the time of the Russian retreat from East Prussia, the divisional lazaretto of the 28-th infantry division was left in the town of Pilkallen. When they occupied the town the Germans took as prisoners 40 sanitary attendants and 3 assistant doctors belonging to the staff of this lazaretto, although they were all unarmed and wore the badge of the Red Cross. Four surgeons and two assistants, left by the Germans with the wounded, were also declared prisoners of war, and on the following day they were to be taken to Koenigsberg. The next day, however, the Russian troops retook the town, and the lazaretto was liberated. On the 30-th of the same month of August the chief surgeon of the aforesaid division, Zviagintzov, was taken prisoner by the Germans near the town of Stolupen. In spite of the fact that he wore on his arm the badge of the Red Cross, and at once proceeded to dress the wounds of prisoners, the Germans tore off his shoulder straps, made him take off and hand over the doctor's badge of his regiment, the cocarde from his cap and his spurs, and then they took his purse out of his pocket, took the money out of it, and opened and searched through the things in his hand-bag. When Zviagintsev had done attending to the wounded, he was made to tramp with a column of soldier prisoners to the town of Gumbinen. Being unaccustomed to walk long distances in mud and dirt, without food or drink, he began to lag behind. Then the soldiers of the escort pushed him in the back with the butt ends of their rifles and pricked him up with their bayonets. At Gumbinen he was placed together with three wounded Russian officers in a

small, dark and dirty room, whence, after three days, they were sent on to Insterburg and placed in a lazaretto with German and Russian wounded. (Case № 177).

On the 28-th of August 1915, at Goldap, when the Russians retired from East Prussia, the Germans seized the medical staff of the 310-th mobile field hospital, including sisters of mercy Radonich, Nikolich-Pavlovich, Kondratiev and Brago. A German officer declared that they were all prisoners of war, and in case of any attempt to escape they would be shot. The sisters were separated from the rest and placed in the building of the local hospital. In the room in which they were locked up there were only three beds with dirty bed linen, left after having been used by persons suffering from dysentery, as it bore traces of that illness. When the German sisters of mercy saw the Russian sisters taking off these soiled sheets from the beds, they observed in a very severe tone that the sheets were not at all dirty, and were quite good enough for them. The next day the sisters were marched with doctors and sanitary attendants to the barracks, where they were kept for some time and then sent back. After this they were lodged in a still smaller room, with only one mattress for all four sisters, two coverlets and four stools. Until their departure from Goldap, which took place on the 10-th of September, they were kept all the time shut up and not even allowed to go to the water-closet, but as a substitute for the latter one pail was put into the room and emptied once every four days. For washing purposes they received one small basin of water per day, and with this they had to wash their linen and also the floor. When they asked permission to buy spirit and combs it was refused. Later on, when they were at Hammerstein, the commandant of that place took away their eau de cologne as a superfluous luxury. Their nourishment at Goldap consisted of coffee without sugar, a piece of bread with goose grease in the morning, and soup, with something in it like glue, or flour, for dinner and supper. When they complained to the local doctor and the German sisters of mercy, the latter only answered, „That's good enough for you“!

From Goldap these Russian sisters, after short stoppages at Letzen, Barstein and Koenigsberg, were transferred to the camp

for war prisoners at Hammerstein, where they remained till the 29-th of October. They were then sent on to Schlochau and placed in charge of the civil authorities until the 16-th of December, when they received permission to return to Russia.

At Hammerstein, for three weeks, they were allowed to attend to Russian wounded prisoners. During the rest of the time their request in this respect was rejected. At Shlochau their wish to have some work to do induced the wife of the local landrath to propose that they should knit stockings for the Red Cross. She had heard that they were in need of money, and they might earn something in that way. But earnings of this kind were, of course, refused by the sisters, who stated that they had a right to everything necessary for their subsistence, and stockings for the Red Cross they could make for nothing. This reply offended the wife of the landrath, and as a result the sisters began to receive less food than before.

Any show of independence, or self-respect on the part of the sisters, was also not left without retaliation. On one occasion, at Barstein, a German doctor was dressing a wound on the leg of a Russian soldier prisoner, and he turned to the sister Nikolich-Pavlovich with the question:—„How often in a year do Russians wash themselves,—you Russian swine? Nikolich-Pavlovich answered that in Russia there were bathing houses for the people, where everyone, not possessing a bath at home, considered it necessary to go once a week, and that the wounded man, whose wound the doctor was attending to, had been for a month and a half a prisoner in Germany, so that the dirt on him was German and not Russian. This answer offended the doctor, who began to call the Russian sisters dirty pigs, and when they told him that they would not work with him any longer, he said,—„Don't forget that you are prisoners of war here, and you shall pay for this“. And in fact, the next day the sisters were kept without food. (Case № 147).

This kind of treatment of Russian prisoners in Germany is also described in a letter from a Russian captive doctor, written to his wife, who has placed it at the disposal of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. The name of the doctor is naturally withheld

in order to avoid reprisals. This letter states that the doctor and his comrades were seized by the Germans at Goldap and put in prison, where they were „robbed of everything“. Doctor . . . thus describes the first days of their imprisonment:—„Everything was taken away from us,—money, papers, purses, rings, field glasses, note books etc. We were thus rifled of all we possessed by German officers and soldiers, headed by the surgeon-major of a cavalry regiment. Those who tried to hide their money were beaten by the major himself. Other doctors were with us not belonging to our hospital. And all this was practised on members of the Red Cross entitled to protection by virtue of the Geneva Convention. Our sisters of mercy were also at first sent to prison with us, but in a few hours they were sent back to a Red Cross lazaretto and we saw them no more. The majority of the soldiers were placed out in the yard, where they remained throughout our stay in the prison, in spite of cold weather and heavy rain. There were wounded men amongst them, who received no attention from anybody except ourselves. In these horrible conditions we dressed their wounds on our own initiative, with the help of packets of material, which the wounded Russians had brought with them. For two days none of us received any food. On the evening of the second day we received a small basin of pea-soup and many of us did not get even that. On the third day a piece of bread, less than a pound, was served out to each person, and from that time we began to get pea-soup once a day. On that day we were transferred to the barracks of the local regiment, where we each received a mattress stuffed with wood shavings thrown down on the floor. We were lodged in the armoury with very little room and plenty of dust and dirt. On the fifth day we were roused up at five o'clock in the morning, and after pea soup for breakfast, we were taken from Goldap to the town of Angerburg, distant about 40 or 50 kilometres. This journey was made in the daytime. We marched at a quick pace, with only one stoppage of half an hour, and we reached Angerberg at eight o'clock at night. Our column consisted of about 4000 men. Those who fell out were propped on with butt ends of rifles and at the point of the bayonet. We got nothing to drink on the way, and those who stopped at the wells in passing were driven away with bayonets.

The march was a very painful one after five days hunger, and on arriving at our destination we all sank down on to the ground. „Notwithstanding a protest delivered to the German Government, Doctor still remains a prisoner. (Case № 178).

Similar evidence of doctor prisoners being robbed of all their personal belongings has been given by the senior surgeon of the 73-rd Artillery Brigade, Gregory Dimitrovich Onisimov, who was captured by the enemy on the 30-th of August 1904 near „Malvishkek“ in East Prussia, but has since been released. The most striking and characteristic part of this ex-prisoner's testimony is a description of the insulting treatment received by Russian prisoners from the soldiers of their German escort on the road to Insterburg. „The peaceful temper of our German convoy did not last long. „We soon began to meet detachments of German troops, who „swore and shook their fists and levelled their rifles and revolvers „at us, shouting,—„why lead these men about, when they can be „settled here on the spot?“ This kind of remark was shouted at us „in German, Polish and broken Russian. The peaceful inhabitants „also reviled us and called upon the soldiers to despatch us there „and then. They shouted „nach Berlin“,—to Berlin with them!.... „to Welhau! — Russischer schweinhund,— Russian swain!“, and so „forth. The soldiers of the escort were taken into houses on the „road and made drunk, so that they also began to amuse themselves „at our expense. The German soldier walking on my right took his „rifle from his shoulder, as if tired, and held it in such a way that the „muzzle touched my right temple, and then he played carelessly with „the lock of it, as though unaware of what he was doing. When I moved „out of the way he said:—„Ah! you're afraid of losing your head, there's „no danger“. As soon as the guard on one side had had his little joke, „his comrade on the other side began. Another soldier on a cart came „along purposely handling his rifle so as to stick the muzzle into „my chest, and when I warded it off he roared with laughter and „seemed highly delighted. When going down a steep part of the „road the driver of a cart behind intentionally drove into us and „struck me on the legs with the shafts. I shouted to him to stop „and not break my legs. He simply replied: „bad to have no legs“! This kind of thing went on throughout the march. Sometimes we

were driven forward like horses, and the wounded men in the carts were so shaken about that they groaned with pain. The guards did not allow us to turn round to speak with them, and no attention was paid to our entreaties to drive them slowly. (Case № 176).

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

*Gifts of the
Russian Embassy*

Russia —

The Imperially instituted and Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

Everything that has up to the present appeared in the press about our unfortunate soldiers, languishing as prisoners in Germany, was bound to stir the feelings of all grades of Russian society. Sensitive to every form of misery, Russians of all classes have been deeply grieved by the accounts of the sufferings of their fellow-countrymen, unlucky enough to fall into the hands of the enemy. But in the midst of the general indignation, attempts have been made to throw doubt upon the facts published in the papers. The public have been warned against this kind of information, much of which is declared to be exaggerated, or even invented. According to this warning, the reports in question are the outcome of animosity and malice towards the Powers fighting against us and therefore not to be trusted.

In issuing the present brief description of the life of Russian prisoners in Germany, the Imperially Instituted and Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry considers it necessary to affirm that everything set forth in these pages has been taken exclusively from the evidence of Russian soldiers escaped from German captivity and from members of the first party of repatriated invalids, who arrived in Petrograd on the 4th of August of this year and who have personally experienced the enemy's cruelty, or been eye-witnesses of the sufferings endured by our martyr-heros.

Russian Prisoners amongst the Germans.

Killing the wounded.

The very first hostile encounters with the Austro-Germans made it perfectly clear to our troops that they would have to do with an enemy who holds nothing sacred and for whom no laws, human or divine, are of any importance. Not one of our wounded men remaining on the battle field, or taken prisoner, could be sure that, unarmed, helpless and suffering as he might be, he would not be shot, bayoneted, or otherwise done away with, or perhaps put to torture at the hands of a brutalized foe.

After a fight on the 1st of November 1914, a wounded corporal of the 2nd regiment of riflemen, named Vasili Isayev, was unable to retreat with his comrades and fell to the ground exhausted.

A German soldier soon came up to him and thrust his bayonet into Isayev's arm in order, apparently, to be sure that he was still alive. The German then tried to bayonet him again, this time in the breast, but Isayev, mustering all his remaining strength, warded off the stroke by catching hold of the bayonet. The German, however, succeeded in wrenching his weapon from the grasp of Isayev and bayoneted the latter right through the groin. Thinking he had inflicted a mortal wound, the German then went away.

A private soldier of the 141st Mojaisky regiment, named Porphyri Subbotin, was wounded on the 16th of August 1914 in East Prussia. He remained on the battle field and was unmercifully beaten and kicked about by 4 German soldiers. A passing German officer, who seemed to be disgusted at this outrageous proceeding, ordered the soldiers to leave the wounded man alone. They went away, in obedience to the officer's orders, but one of

the soldiers first thrust his bayonet right through Subbotin's breast and another shot at him in the head, though, fortunately for Subbotin, the bullet only passed through his cap and caused no injury.

A private of the 1st regiment of Turkestan riflemen, of the name of Leonti Ungurian, was wounded by a rifle bullet in a fight on the 1st of October 1914 near Lyck and fell to the ground by the side of a badly wounded under-officer of the same regiment. The latter was beaten to death by German soldiers with the butt-ends of their rifles before the eyes of Ungurian.

After the battle of the 21st of September 1914, in East Prussia, Michal Nikolayev, a corporal in His Majesty's 3rd rifle regiment, was wounded and lying on the field, when some of the German infantrymen came up and one of them took aim at him, but was prevented from firing by an officer, who was riding by at the moment. Before leaving the wounded man the infuriated German kicked Nikolayev in the place of his wound with such violence that he fainted.

On the 3rd October 1914, after a battle near Ivangorod, a private of the 82nd Daghestan regiment, named Porphyri Oliferovsky, was wounded by a rifle bullet and being unable to move, he remained in a trench with the dead and other wounded men. When the Germans rushed into the trench after our retirement Oliferovsky saw how they bayoneted all the wounded Russians. He was left untouched because they thought he was already dead.

Paul Kreschenko-Kravchenko, a private in the 102nd regiment of Viatka, was wounded and left on the battle field, after the fighting on the 26th of August 1914. Before his very eyes the Germans made prisoners of the remaining men of the company to which he belonged and shot them all on the spot. Kravchenko lay on the field nearly two days and witnessed how the German soldiers sought out those amongst the Russian wounded who were still alive and bayoneted them.

A private of the 142nd Zvenigorod regiment, named Feodor Ilchenko, was a witness of how the German soldiers shot and bayoneted our wounded men, as he lay on the field after the fighting on the 17th of August 1914 in East Prussia.

One of the wounded men in a battle on the 26th of August in East Prussia, Gabriel Savushinsky, a private in the 169th Novot-

roksky regiment, being unable to raise himself and suffering much pain, noticed a badly wounded comrade of the same regiment lying not far off and he called out to him for help to dress his wounds. The wounded man crawled over to Savushinsky and between them Savushinsky's wounds were bound up with the bandages which they carried in their kit. After the wounds had been dressed, the two men were approached by a mounted party of German patrols. The officer, as soon as he saw the wounded men lying on the ground, rode up to them and with the words: „Ah! you are Russians; there's Berlin for you“, fired his revolver at the man who had assisted Savushinsky, killing him on the spot.

A private of the 101st regiment of Perm, named Setruk-Abregun-Musesov, after the battle of the 26 th of August 1914 at the Mazura Lakes, was one of about 20 wounded Russians, whom our stretcher bearers were unable to remove, owing to the enemy's advance. All the wounded were killed by the approaching German soldiers. One of them was just going to bayonet Musesov, when a German officer stopped him with the words, uttered in the Russian language: „why stab a wounded man?“ The officer then ordered Musesov to be picked up and taken to the nearest ambulance station. On the way there the German soldiers came across a Cossack wounded in the stomach, lying behind some stones. They put Musesov down, went up to the Cossack and cut off one after the other all his fingers on both hands except the thumbs, then they amputated his ears and his nose and finally killed the unfortunate man outright with a sword-bayonet. The tortured Cossack implored Musesov to intercede for him with his murderers, but Musesov was unable to move and could render no assistance; he only looked on with horror at the ghastly scene.

After a fight near Letzen, a private soldier of the 302-nd Surajesky regiment, named Makar Khvostenko, was wounded by a rifle bullet and left on the battle field. German soldiers very soon came on and despatched all the wounded with the bayonet and butt-ends of their rifles. Seeing that he would inevitably be killed like the rest, Khvostenko managed to save himself by „squeezing close to the ground“ and feigning to be dead.

In a fight on the 1-st of November 1914, a soldier of the regiment of riflemen, Semen Gondarenko, was beaten about the head with the butt-ends of rifles by German soldiers until he lost consciousness.

During the fighting in East Prussia on the 14-th of August 1914, private Ignatius Stimelevsky, of the 8-th Esthonian regiment, was wounded in both arms. He became very weak and finally unconscious from great loss of blood. On coming to his senses, after some time, he saw standing before him a German soldier, who said in the Polish language: — „you have lost so much blood that you cannot live in any case, so you must be killed“, and suiting the action to the word, he was about to bayonet Stimelevsky when a bullet struck him in the head and he fell dead.

A private of the 107-th Molodechensky regiment, named Napoleon Yadvershis, was wounded in the leg on the 28-th of August 1914, in the fighting in the region of the Mazura Lakes and he remained lying in a trench with other wounded soldiers of his company. After the Russians had retired, the Germans rushed into the trench and began to throw earth over the wounded. Yadvershis made signs to them that he preferred to be bayoneted rather than be buried alive, but the Germans went on covering him over with dirt. Fortunately, a German officer entered the trench in time and drove his soldiers away with a whip. He then ordered them to dig out the wounded men at once.

Gregory Krivenko, a private of the 169-th Novotrotsky regiment, who was wounded and after the fighting lay on the field for six days without food or drink, was a witness of the way in which the German soldiers bayoneted two wounded Russians lying not far off from him.

Anton Snotalsky, a private in the 23-rd infantry regiment, was taken prisoner on the 15-th of August 1914 and was first sent to the rear and then to a concentration camp at „Schneidemuhle“. The prisoners were taken part of the way to the nearest railway station on foot, although there were wounded men amongst them. The latter, being tired and weakened, were unable to keep up with the rest and the soldiers of the escort drove them forward by striking them with the butt-ends of their rifles and stabbing them

with bayonets. One of them, who could not walk any farther and fell down exhausted, was bayoneted to death by one of the German convoy and the body was left lying in the road. This inhuman treatment of wounded prisoners, who fell behind the rest on this march, is confirmed by Denis Shkurin of the 212-th Romanov regiment. He was an eye-witness of the killing of several of the wounded Russians, who were over fatigued and suffering pain from their wounds, so that they could not keep up with the party.

German treatment of wounded prisoners. Such, according to depositions of victims and eye-witnesses, have been the sufferings of our wounded soldiers, left on the battle fields in the power of a cruel and unscrupulous enemy. Those sufferings have been horrible, but happily not of long duration and no doubt that many of the men destined to experience the further horrors of German captivity have envied their comrades, who found their eternal rest in a soldier's grave.

The rendering of timely aid to victims of war, such as collecting the wounded on the battle field, conveying them to ambulance stations and field lazarettos, dressing their wounds etc., depend upon very many conditions and circumstances, which cannot possibly be foreseen and therefore our enemy cannot be reproached when our wounded men sometimes remain for days together without medical assistance and often succumb to the consequences of delay in attending to their wounds, which reach a septic condition, ending in general blood poisoning. But if such cases are explainable by an objective appreciation of the causes giving rise to them, there can be no justification for an enemy, who not only makes no effort to lessen the sufferings of the wounded, but deliberately increases such sufferings in order to make cruel sport of sick and defenceless fellow creatures.

A private named Leonti Musika, of the life guard regiment of Keksholm, was spectator of a scene, in which German soldiers amused themselves at the fatal cost of a poor Cossack, very badly injured, who was lying on the ground waiting to have his wounds attended to by the doctors. The Germans ordered him to get up and show them the „look of a Cossack“. This was impossible for the wounded and extremely weakened Cossack and the German

soldiers then set to beating and kicking the unfortunate man until they silenced him for ever.

Alexander Fedoroff, a private soldier in the 93-rd Irkutsk regiment, was brought into the yard of one of the houses in Insterburg to have his wounds dressed. Two wounded Cossacks were lying not far off from him. They were surrounded by German soldiers, who knocked them about and made fun of them. At last, these Germans used their sticks and butt-ends of rifles on the wounded Cossacks to such an extent that the latter speedily expired. This was in full view of Fedoroff and occurred at a German ambulance station.

Joseph Dashkevich, a soldier in the life guard regiment of Keksholm, was picked up by German stretcher bearers on the third day after a battle near Lodz and taken, together with 3 other wounded Russians, to the nearest farmhouse. They were put into a stable with the cattle, thrown down on to the dung and in spite of their entreaties to have their wounds bandaged, so as to keep them clean, the German sanitary officers went away, leaving the wounded Russians without any medical assistance or attendance. The cattle shed, in which the wounded men were lodged, took fire from an artillery shell. The Germans leisurely led out the cattle and brought out things of no value, but only when the fire had spread very considerably did they proceed to drag Dashkevich and another of the wounded Russians out of the flaming building. The two others remained inside and were burnt alive.

Colonel Michael Saveliev, of the 4th regiment of riflemen, was wounded by a rifle bullet and twice contused in the fighting on the 14th of August 1914 near Soldau. The Germans took him prisoner and deposited him on the estate „Rutkovits“. There was a luxurious mansion on this estate, in which wounded German soldiers were accommodated. Although there were several empty rooms in this house, they put the wounded Russian Colonel in a small room, or cellar in the basement with one little window and a floor covered with dirt, broken glass and different kinds of rubbish. In the same room two more wounded Russian officers were placed and also 6 wounded privates. When they arrived at Rutkovits no food was given to the wounded; only a small wooden bowl with water was left with them for the night. The room contained a

bedstead and one small sofa, but no other furniture. When night came, on the wounded prisoners, tired and tormented morally and physically, were quite unable in the circumstances to refresh themselves with sleep. The soldiers with undressed wounds had to lie on the dirty floor, the bed and couch being given up to the wounded officers. Colonel Saveliev spent the night sitting on the edge of the sofa. Next day the prisoners were three times interrogated as to the strength of the Russian forces and their strategical positions. A doctor's assistant with a sanitary attendant made his appearance to see to the wounds of the prisoners only in the evening. The doctor's assistant (feldsher) hastily bandaged the wounds of the prisoners, whilst the sanitary attendant stood by with a loaded revolver pointed towards each man as he submitted to the attentions of the „feldsher“.

On the 4th of November 1914 lieutenant Michael Kudriasheff was wounded in one of his legs with 3 bullets, one of which splintered the bone. In spite of great pain, Kudriasheff crawled to a village, where he expected to find Russian troops, but it turned out that they had retired from it after the fighting. All was quiet in the village. Only one cottage showed the glimmer of a light and towards this Kudriasheff crept his way. He found there several wounded Russian soldiers and with them he passed the night. At dawn German cavalry patrols entered the village. A German officer came into the cottage and Kudriasheff begged him to have a surgeon sent to attend to the wounded. The German officer only smiled and without paying the least attention to the request, proceeded to put Kudriasheff through a long cross-examination as to the numbers and position of the Russian troops. Not receiving any satisfactory answers, the German officer quitted the cottage and left the wounded prisoners to their fate, together with some of their number, who were already dead.

It was not until the evening of the same day that a considerate Polish landlord of the locality induced a medical man to visit the prisoners and make a first dressing of their wounds. In 3 days the wounded, including lieutenant Kudriasheff, were taken in carts to the town of Gostinin and put into a lazaretto in the local gymnasium school. The wounded were thrown down on to the floor of

the vestibule on dirty, damp and bad-smelling straw and left without any medical attention. Kudriasheff was dying of thirst and although he begged and groaned for water, not one of the passers by brought him a single drop. It was evening before a doctor took notice of Kudriasheff and the wounded men lying with him and proceeded to clean and bandage up their wounds.

Russians made prisoners, and who were generally deprived of their overcoats, boots and everything else of any value by German soldiers and even by German officers, were sent to the nearest railway station on foot to be transported farther into the interior of Germany. On these occasions the slightly wounded men had also to walk. During such marches, which sometimes took several days, no food was given to them. They had to eat raw potatoes, turnips and carrots, which they tore up in the fields along the route and for getting these vegetables they were beaten and ill-used by the Germans of the escort. The senior subaltern of the 21st Siberian regiment, Raphael Kochurovsky, witnessed the shooting of a wounded Russian prisoner by a German soldier for leaving the ranks to pick up a half rotten turnip lying in the road.

**On the
way to
concentra-
tion camps.**

The peaceful inhabitants along the routes traversed in Germany showed the greatest hostility towards the prisoners, whom they reviled as „Russian swine and dogs“. Women and even children threw stones and sand at them and spat right into their faces. Corporal Alexander Asmus, a volunteer in the 4th Koporsky regiment, states that whilst a large party of Russian prisoners were waiting for a train at the station in Allenstein they were surrounded by a crowd of people, who came to the station to gaze at them. Many persons in this crowd used bad language and shook their fists at the Russian prisoners. Even the wounded men were not spared by these demented Germans, who struck them, pulled their mustaches and spat in their faces. Such insults only ceased when the prisoners had been entrained.

Prisoners were evacuated into the interior of Germany by train and the bare remembrance of those enforced journeys still make our soldier invalids shudder with horror and fear. They were conveyed in cattle trucks with dirty, stinking floors, covered with a

thick layer of dung. The normal load per truck was 80 to 90 men. The trucks were so overcrowded that it was impossible to sit or lie down. Before the train started the trucks were tightly closed and the prisoners had to obey the calls of nature where they stood, using their caps for the purpose and throwing them out afterwards through the small window, which also served as the only means of ventilation.

The atmosphere in the trucks, as all the prisoners who have returned home declare, was frightful. Men were half suffocated; they fainted away and many even died. Hunger was their constant companion. A mug of bad barley coffee and a small piece of bread in the course of two or three days,—this was all the prisoners had to satisfy their appetites. The pangs of hunger were only intensified, instead of being appeased, when the train stopped and the trucks were opened to exhibit the prisoners to the public at the stations, where victualling arrangements existed for the German soldiers. The latter were then regaled with abundance of food and drink before the very eyes of the famished Russians looking out of the trucks.

Vasili Tretiakov, a private in His Majesty's 3rd life guard regiment of riflemen, has related a case, which it would be difficult to believe were it not told by an eye witness. At one of the stations the truck was opened in which Tretiakov and 80 or 90 men altogether were being conveyed into the interior of Germany. Having received no food for two days, the Russian prisoners, who fully expected to get some bread at this station, were gazing with hungry and longing looks into the distance, when they saw women dressed as sisters of mercy distributing bread and sausages to the German soldiers. One of these sisters went up to the truck in which Tretiakov was standing and a Russian soldier at the door stretched out his hand for something to eat, but the woman simply struck it and smeared the soldier's face with a piece of sausage. She then called all the prisoners „Russian swine“ and went away from the side of the train.

The extent to which the Germans have cultivated the art and means of cruel mockery of our troops may be seen in an incident of which Nicholas Eichem, a soldier of the life guard regiment of

Keksholm, was a spectator. At Neidenburg the Germans harnessed a Russian officer to a machine gun and made him drag it through the streets of the town, accompanied by the jeers and jibes of a brutalised crowd of the inhabitants.

Prisoners taken into Germany were distributed in concentration camps at Altgrabow, Brandenburg, Stralsund, Ulm, Wezel, Schneidemuhle and near other towns. **lu concentration camps.**

When Russian prisoners were first taken to these camps, the latter had no buildings of any kind. They consisted only of open spaces surrounded by double and sometimes triple fences of barbed wiring. The prisoners, as already described, had been deprived of their overcoats and boots and only had their short blouses, their shirts and torn shoes, or slippers with wooden soles, which they received in exchange for their own boots. In these things they had to pass days and nights under the open sky, lying on the bare, damp ground, without any kind of shelter: Such impossible conditions forced the prisoners to set about providing themselves with „dug-outs“, which would afford some protection at night against the cold and inclement weather. There were no shovels and the prisoners dug up the soil with their bare hands, using also metal spoons and tin mugs for the purpose. In this way they managed to dig out small underground shelters, in which two or three men were able to lie down during the cold and damp nights of August and September. In proportion as the number of men in the camps increased more wooden barracks were erected. Delivery of materials and the work of construction were undertaken by the prisoners of war under the superintendence of German sergeant-majors and under-officers, who were the immediate masters in these camps. The barracks were made to hold 500 or 600 men each and the men were transferred to them from the „dug-outs“ as the buildings were got ready. These barracks afforded protection against rain, but not against cold and dampness. The walls were lined with thin deals with chinks between them and although iron stoves were supplied, they were very seldom heated from want of a sufficient stock of coke. Each prisoner placed in the barracks received a mattress and pillow stuffed with wood shavings and one thin felt coverlet.

There were no bedsteads or benches. The mattresses in most of the camps were laid on the bare ground. The shavings, with which they were filled, were thus constantly affected by the moisture of the ground and soon began to rot, so that the mattresses were converted into wet, flattened—out bags, emitting a very offensive odour.

There were no baths in the camps. The prisoners were obliged to remain clothed in the dirty shirts, which they wore when they were captured and being therefore unable to wash themselves, or their linen, they were terribly tormented by insects. When the winter weather set in, their mattresses were frozen hard to the ground and their drinking water was converted into lumps of ice. They only saved themselves from being frozen by huddling close together, often one on the top of the other, in order to keep each other warm by the the heat of their bodies. Hands and feet were frozen in a number of cases.

Food in the camps. The business of supplying food was entrusted to contractors, who looked after their own interests more than they considered the lives and health of the prisoners.

After having heard the unanimous testimony of all the ex-prisoners, who have escaped or returned from captivity in Germany, one can only marvel at their having escaped death from starvation and exhaustion.

At 6 o' clock in the morning each prisoner received a mug of coffee and not more than half a pound of bread. Later on this was reduced to a quarter of a pound. The greyish brown liquid without milk or sugar called „coffee“ had a disagreeable flavour and was so little like the real thing that, according to a statement made by Doctor Abramovich, an ex-prisoner of the 1st Nevsky regiment, it was mistaken for urine by a senior medical officer, who once visited the camp at Schneidemuhle. The bread issued by half a pound, or quarter of a pound daily to each prisoner, was composed of flour mixed with potatoes, bran, straw and even sawdust. It soon became stale and was then a firm uneatable mass.

At noon the prisoners were all drawn up in lines and each of them went up to the caldron with his basin to receive soup. This

was made with water without meat and groats and swimming about in it were to be seen bits of beet root, potatoes, carrots and other roots, boiled in their skins. These vegetables were often not even washed first, but were put into the pot together with lumps of soil, dirt and dung still clinging to them.

In the evening at 6 o'clock the prisoners, after remaining hungry all day, received each a mug of „boltushki“,—a mess of flour or bran, diluted with hot water, which looked like a thin sticking paste.

This was all the food the prisoners had to live on for a whole day and it is not surprising to learn that they picked out bread crusts and scraps of other food from the dust holes, where all the refuse of the camp was deposited.

These conditions of bad nourishment, combined with the cold and damp, in which the prisoners were obliged to live, produced epidemic cholera, hunger typhus and the spotted form of that disease in many of the camps. For instance, at Schneidemuhle, where 28,000 Russian prisoners were concentrated, an epidemic of hunger typhus broke out in the middle of November. At the end of that month the disease became so serious that about 40 Russian prisoner-doctors were sent to the camp to battle with it.

**Epidemical
disease.**

We cannot refrain from alluding to the reception which the German commandant gave to our doctors when they paid their respects to him on arriving at the camp.

The commandant delivered them a little lecture, in which he pointed out that everyone in Germany was bound to work to the fullest extent of their powers. Germany, he said, was not Russia, where time could be wasted in idleness; that for those who were unwilling to work in Germany there were means of compulsion. He emphasized his remarks and gave ocular demonstration of the means referred to by pointing to his revolver and pulling a „nagaika“, or short whip with a leather thong out of the top of one of his boots. Abramovich states that this rude and arrogant speech produced the most depressing effect upon the Russian doctors, but nevertheless, seeing the sufferings of their fellow countrymen, they set to work energetically to do their best.

It is difficult to describe the state of things, which the Russian doctors met with in the camp at Schneidemühle.

Men down-stricken with typhus, in a more or less serious form, were prostrate on the ground of the barracks, side by side with their healthy companions. They were lying on wet and rotten mattresses. There was no medical attendance and the healthy men, as well as the invalids who could still stand on their legs, were looking after those, who were too weak to get up. All the clothing they had on were the coarse tunics worn by soldiers in hot weather instead of shirts, and their drawers, while the thin blankets on the beds scarcely covered them. The barracks were ventilated in the most primitive manner. The windows and doors were all thrown wide open several times a day and the cold draught blowing through the buildings gave shivers even to the men who were quite well, whilst those who were delirious, with 40 degrees Reaumur of body temperature, might as well have had icy cold water poured over them. No changes were made for giving better nourishment to the sick men. They were fed out of the common pot, with the same kind of soup and the same „boltushka“, or mess of thin sticky gruel. The sick patients were weakened by parasites and vermin.

In such conditions it became more difficult every day to fight against the epidemic; nevertheless, the military authorities of the camp remained deaf to all requests made by the Russian medical staff. At last, however, the enormous percentage of deaths compelled the German authorities to turn their attention to the state of the camp. A sanitary inspector was sent to make an investigation and the Russian doctors gave him a written report indicating the measures, which, in their opinion, were necessary at once in order to combat the epidemic with success. This report had an effect. A bath house was rapidly constructed, clean under linen for the men was sent to the camp and the sick men were separated from the healthy prisoners and lodged in separate barracks.

But even when these necessary measures were taken, and which were not so much directed towards diminishing the sufferings of the sick prisoners, as they were intended to prevent the spread of the epidemic beyond the bounds of the camp, the cruelty of the German towards a defenceless enemy still showed itself.

The new barracks were disinfected against parasites and the sick men, before being transferred, were washed in the bath, shaved and besmeared with insecticide ointment, but they were then made to go naked into the new premises and there they only received clean linen.

In spite of the measures adopted, the epidemic of typhus at the concentration camp of Schneidemühle did not and could not cease, as nothing was done to remove the primary causes of the disease, namely, hunger and exhaustion of the prisoners.

The number of patients increased and those who survived were obliged to give up their places in the barracks of the lazaretto to fresh victims. As there was not sufficient accommodation for convalescents, the latter, who were still dangerous in the sense of spreading possible contagion, were isolated in special subterranean huts, or „dug-outs“, each intended for 250 or 300 men.

The weak invalids, who were in a semi-conscious state, in spite of a protest from the Russian doctors, were cruelly transferred from the barracks to the „dug-outs“ and many of them never came out of them alive. Besides those who were taken thence to the cemetery, others were carried to the operation tables.

These underground huts were dug out in a hurry; boards were used only to cover over the top and their unsupported walls subsided and often covered the patients lying against them with sand and soil. The isolated patients, to whom access was forbidden, were left in the „dug-outs, without any attendance and even food was not given to them every day. The cold was felt here still more keenly, as straw only, instead of mattresses, were provided in the „dug-outs“ and the sick men, having no thick clothing, tried to keep warm by getting underneath the straw.

Very few survived this torture and during the course of two months more than 4000 men died. The freezing of arms and legs became almost a normal occurrence and the gangrene which, then set in, necessitated amputation.

Amongst the 248 Russian prisoners in the first batch returned from Germany many are without their limbs and it must be understood that these men have not been crippled as the result of wounds received on the field of battle. Not bullets nor fragments of explo-

ding shells, but the malice and cruelty of the Germans towards an unconquerable and detested enemy, have made many of our soldiers helpless cripples for life.

Work of prisoners.

The Germans have made wide use of the compulsory and unpaid labour of their prisoners of war. The latter have been put to various kinds of work, both inside the camps and in other places. The hardest and dirtiest work was given to the Russians and sometimes to the English prisoners. The French prisoners were treated much more considerately,

The cleaning out of cesspools and water-closets fell to the duty exclusively of the Russians and the dirt was taken away from the camp in barrels by the prisoners themselves, who for the want of horses performed the work of the latter. The prisoners, in parties of hundreds at a time, were set to dig canals for draining marshes, to hew down timber, carry logs, dig trenches and so forth.

The hardest kind of work was that of draining swamps and ploughing and harrowing the fields. From 6 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock at night, with only a short rest for dinner, prisoners had to work, standing bare-footed in water up to the knees and wearing only the coarse tunic-shirts, or blouses previously mentioned. In this way they had to dig new and deepen old canals for the drainage of marshy soil. Many of the men fell down through hunger and cold on the spot where they were working and were unable to rise without assistance.

In tilling the fields the prisoners were harnessed by means of special appliances to ploughs and harrows in batches of 14 and 16 and in this fashion they acted as substitutes for working cattle. A private of the 99th regiment of Ivangorod named Peter Lopoukhov, related with tears in his eyes how he and other prisoners were attached to a plough and how the German guiding it behind lashed them on with a long whip.

The treatment of prisoners during this insufferably toilsome work was disgusting. The soldier guards set to watch them took particular care that not one minute of the working day should be lost. If a tired man sat down to rest for a short time, he was promptly driven back to work by a German soldier by means of

blows from a stick, or the butt-end of a rifle and sometimes the use of the bayonet. Any prisoner unwilling to perform a particular kind of work was beaten senseless and sometimes to death. Jacob Kalichkin, a soldier of the 27-th regiment of Siberian rifleman, was a spectator of the way in which a whole party of Russian prisoners were beaten for refusing to dig trenches in front of Kalish. Understanding that the trenches were required by the Germans for purposes of defence, the prisoners declined the work and they had to pay dearly for the disobedience. The Germans took four men at a time, laid them face downwards on the ground and thrashed them with sticks, thinking that this punishment would be sufficient to reduce them to submission. Nevertheless, and in spite of 10 of the men being beaten to death in this way, the prisoners remained firm in their resolve and the Germans were obliged to admit that they were powerless to make Russians dig trenches against their brother-soldiers.

This beating of prisoners for refusing to dig trenches is attested by Dimitri Kuznetsov, a private in the 233-rd Yurevetsky regiment.

Neither exhaustion nor illness exempted a prisoner from work. At dawn all were driven out of the barracks and woe to those who did not go out immediately, in obedience to the first call, whether they were well or ill, for any show of reluctance entailed a cruel beating. A private of the 23-rd infantry regiment, named Anton Snotalsky, was an eye-witness of how a prisoner in the camp at Schneidemuhle was killed by a German rifle shot because he was too weak to work and wished to return to the barracks.

Without counting the india-rubber rods, whips with thongs of dried gut and „nagaikas“, with which the German sergeant-majors, subalterns and soldiers holding sway over the prisoners in camp were abundantly furnished, there were a number of cruel and humiliating disciplinary punishments for the slightest fault and often without any sufficient reason. Prisoners were kept for a considerable time without warm food, only bread and water being supplied. They were made to stand several hours with uplifted arms, holding 4 or 5 bricks on each hand, they were made

**Disciplinary
punishment**

to kneel with bare knees on broken bricks, to drag heavy loads round the barracks until they were thoroughly exhausted and so forth. For the most part the forms of punishment favoured by the Germans remind one of the tortures of the middle ages.

Offenders were tied up high with ropes or wire to posts, so that their feet barely touched the ground and in this position they were left for 3 or 4 hours. In 20—25 minutes the blood began to rise to the head, copious hemorrhage took place from the nose, mouth and ears, the unfortunate man gradually grew weak, lost consciousness and was only prevented from falling down by the ropes or wires which held him to the post.

According to the evidence of prisoners who underwent that kind of torture, it was frightful. The rope and wire cut into the body, causing unbearable suffering and for a long time after being liberated the victim was „unable to come to himself“. All the body ached and a general weakness rendered any movement impossible.

Not infrequently prisoners were stretched over a barrel and beaten with sticks and whips with thongs of gut until they completely lost consciousness.

There is another form of punishment, invented by cultured Germans, which does not, at first sight, appear to be very dreadful, but which those, who had the misfortune to experience it, declare is in the highest degree painful. The men to be punished were led out on to an open space, placed back to back and in this position they were tightly bound together, the rope enveloping the body from head to foot. The men thus lashed together were left standing until one of them fainted away and pulled down the other.

These disciplinary punishments were inflicted at the discretion of German sergeant-majors, under-officers and even private soldiers, who were apparently given uncontrolled power over the honour, health and lives of the prisoners.

Brutality towards prisoners. Acts of cruelty extending to brutality, mockery and causeless murder were quite common occurrences in the concentration camps. Corporal Alexis Ruichkov of the 109th Volga regiment, relates that a considerable number of Russian prisoners were led out of

barracks and drawn up in order on the open square outside. A German doctor, who arrived to vaccinate the prisoners, ordered them to take off their shirts and in spite of the low temperature of the atmosphere, to remain naked and take their turn. One of the prisoners, who could not stand the cold so long, threw his shirt over his shoulders. This quite maddened the German doctor, who rushed at the offender and beat him with a thick cane until he drew blood.

Serge Skripov, a private in the life-guard regiment of riflemen, saw a German soldier chop off four fingers from the right hand of one of our soldiers with his sword because the prisoner diverged from the ranks, in trying to avoid a pool of water.

Private Dimitri Kalugin of the 56th Artillery Brigade was beaten until blood was drawn because feeling weak he declined to go for a walk and returned to barracks.

Corporal Alexander Asmus, a volunteer in the 4th Kaporsky regiment, was an eye-witness of how a German soldier cleft the head of a prisoner with his sword bayonet for trying to receive a second portion of soup.

Private Abdul Devletkhuzen was beaten until blood appeared because he assisted a dying and helpless comrade to sit up. The brutalised sentinel did not confine himself to beating Davletkhuzen, but castigated the dying man as well.

Private Kobiakov, of the 255th regiment of Kaluga, witnessed the beating of one of the Russian prisoners in the camp at „Stendal“ with sticks and how he was deprived of food and tied up to a post for eating what had been given to a dog. In order to stay the pangs of hunger, he drove the dog away and stole its meal.

Corporal Vladimir Stoma of the 198 th regiment of Saratov, was wounded by a sword stroke on the shoulder from a German sentinel simply because he moved out of the ranks in going to fetch food.

Ensign Michael Vienshoff of the 88 th Petrofsky regiment, was a spectator of the shooting of a Russian prisoner by a German soldier because the Russian gave a piece of bread to another prisoner.

The camp at Schneidemühle was divided into four sections and it was forbidden to pass from one section to another. Conver-

sation between prisoners interned in different sections was also forbidden. For not observing this rule, one of the Russian prisoners was killed by a German sentinel in the presence of Vasili Stenberg, a private in the 255 th regiment of Akkerman, who has related this disgusting case.

One of the Russian prisoners picked up a rotten mangel—wurzel, which had been thrown away near the camp fence and began to eat it, contrary to the orders of a sentinel, who at once shot the offending prisoner dead on the spot. The dead body was put into a coffin and deposited in the centre of the camp, with the inscription in Russian—„Shot for disobedience to a sentinel“. For the further edification of the prisoners they were brought out of the barracks and made to walk for two hours round the coffin containing the corpse. Besides other evidence of this fact, it has been attested by private Alexander Kuznetsoff of the 218 th Gorbatsky regiment.

When the news of the defeat of the German troops at Warsaw spread through the camp at Schneidemühle it caused a pleasant animation amongst the Russian prisoners. The Germans being annoyed at the reverse, made the prisoners strip naked and kept them in the frost for several hours whilst they jeered at them and thus revenged themselves for failure at the front. This cruel case, which one would rather not believe, is vouched for by Semen Yashenin, a private of the 291st Trubchevsky regiment, who was one of the victims.

The senior under-officer of the 87th infantry regiment, Paul Samsonov, has told how he saw a German sentinel in the camp of „Frederichsfeld“ kill a Russian prisoner with two shots from his rifle, because the Russian went into another part of the camp and asked a French prisoner for a piece of bread.

One of the Russian prisoners who was very hungry, took a few raw potatoes from a load and began to eat them. This was observed by a German sentinel, who stabbed the prisoner in question in the side and he died the next day. This was witnessed by Fedor Vostriakov of the 208 th Loreisky regiment.

Napoleon Yadvershis, a private in the 107 th Molodenchensky regiment, certifies that in Schneidemühle 70 Russian prisoners, working in the kitchen of the camp, were stretched out in turns

over a barrel and severely beaten with sticks, because one of them gave a piece of meat to a Russian prisoner. Out of the number of men beaten 25 died.

An account given by Peter Shimchak, a peasant from the province of Warsaw, who fled from German captivity, is full of horror. On being examined on oath, he deposed to the following:— In August I was made prisoner while serving as a sailor on board a vessel under the British flag going from Denmark to England. As a Russian subject I was not set free, but was placed in solitary confinement for 7 days in a prison at Hamburg and then sent to a camp for prisoners of war near Berlin, at Zel, where there were already many English, French and Belgian prisoners. In that camp there was a small yard where offending prisoners were generally punished. On one occasion four Cossacks were brought into the camp. I recognized them by the yellow stripes down the sides of their trowsers. They were taken out into the yard and placed about 10 feet from the wall of the barrack and through the crevices I was able to watch the proceedings. They took the first Cossack and placed his left hand on a small wooden post, or block and with a sword bayonet one of the German soldiers chopped off successively half of the Cossack's thumb, half of his middle finger and half of his little finger. I could plainly see how these finger pieces flew off at each stroke of the sword-bayonet and fell to the ground. The Germans picked them up and put them into the pocket of the Cossack's overcoat and then took him into a barrack, where there was a reservoir of running water. The second Cossack was brought up and had holes drilled through his ears, the point of the sword-bayonet being turned round in the cut several times in order, evidently, to make the hole as large as possible. This Cossack was then led away to the barrack where the first one had been taken. When the third Cossack was brought to the place of torture his nose was chopped off by a downward stroke of a sword bayonet, but as the severed piece of nose was still hanging by a bit of skin, the Cossack made signs that they should cut it off completely. The Germans then gave him a pocket knife and with this the Cossack cut off the hanging piece of his own nose. Finally, the fourth Cossack was brought forward. What they intended to do

with him it was impossible to say, but this Cossack with a rapid movement drew out the bayonet of the nearest soldier and dealt a blow with it at one of the Germans. There were about 15 German soldiers present and they all set upon this Cossack and bayoneted him to death, after which they dragged the body outside the camp. What was the fate of the remaining three Cossacks I do not know, but I think, says the witness Shimchak, in concluding his account of the case, they must have been also killed, for I never saw them again.

On the night of the 7th of May 1914, in the camp of Witteberg, seven Russian prisoners were shot for applying to the commandant with a request for better food. This execution was carried out in the presence of Serge Demin, a private in the Grenadier regiment of Kiev.

Private Artemius Shneir of the 22nd regiment of Nijni-Novgorod, relates that one of the men from his own regiment was tied up to a post every day for two weeks, because in one of his letters addressed to Russia he described the hard fate of prisoners in Germany.

In the camp at Schneidemühle, when there were 12 degrees of frost, a German officer, who was making an inspection, ordered the prisoners to come out of their barracks dressed only in their shirts, without the bed covers, which served them instead of the overcoats taken away from them when they were captured. One of the Russian prisoners, not waiting till the inspection was quite finished, ran off to get into his barrack out of the cold, but the inspecting officer sent a revolver bullet after him and killed him on the spot.

A terrible case of cruel mockery of a defenceless enemy is related by private Paul Kreshchenko-Kravchenko. One of the Russian prisoners, a Georgian by origin, tried to escape, but was caught and brought back to the camp. The Germans fastened a chain round his neck and drove him into a dog kennel, where he could neither sit nor lie down. Each time the guards were relieved the fresh soldier placed on duty at this post dragged the unfortunate Russian out of the kennel by the chain, struck him several blows and then drove him back. This torture lasted for two weeks.

Anton Rostovski, a private in the 116th regiment of Maloyaroslav, saw a German officer first beat and then hack a Russian prisoner with his sword, because in giving the military salute the Russian had not observed the established rules.

In their leisure moments the German soldiers amused themselves with practical joking at the expense of the prisoners. They announced that an extra portion of food would be given out and when the Russians hurried to the kitchen, a whole pack of dogs were let loose on them. The animals flew at the prisoners and dispersed them in all directions, while the Germans looked on and roared with laughter. Sometimes the prisoners were offered an extra ladle of soup, or piece of bread if they would expose their backs to a certain number of blows with a whip. Our hungry and tormented soldiers often bought an extra piece of bread at this price, and it was thrown to them as if they had been dogs. Such is the power of hunger.

In their inhuman treatment of prisoners the Germans made no exception even for ministers of the church.

Private Mitrofan Rudenko, of the 107th infantry regiment, was an eye-witness of a scene, in which a German soldier struck a Russian orthodox priest on the cheek and spat in his face. In the camp of Althrobow the commandant Weber, on meeting the aged and venerable chaplain of a Russian division, stopped him and after reproaching him for not making a sufficiently low bow, he struck the priest several blows in the face with his hand.

In finishing the present brief account of the life of Russian prisoners in Germany, the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry abstains from drawing any inferences, or making any generalisations, but in conclusion it cannot refrain from repeating the description of an incident related by Alexis Loganov, a junior subaltern of the 23rd regiment of Siberian riflemen. In the simple and sincere words of this man everything is told.

In Lent, says Loganov, after general prayers, our much respected and beloved doctor Gorainov addressed a few words of consolation

to the prisoners. He called us dear brothers, sufferers in captivity, but he could speak no further; his voice trembled and tears filled his eyes. At the sight of those tears of grief and anguish we were no longer able to restrain our feelings: the barrack building echoed with sobs,—we all sobbed.

Thus have lived Russian prisoners in Germany in the XX th century.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

Presiding over the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

The Senator-President, A. N. Krivtsov, presiding over the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, appeals respectfully to all organs of the press to give the very widest publicity to the fact that amongst the papers, found on dead soldiers of the German Army, and now in the possession of the Russian Extraordinary Commission, are two unposted letters, in which the German soldiers, who wrote them, make the following statements:—"Whenever an attack becomes too difficult we take Russian prisoners and drive them on in front of us against their own countrymen; in this way, at least they somewhat lessen our losses
"we do not know where to put prisoners. Henceforth every Russian surrendering as a prisoner of war will be turned out in front of the line of our fortified positions to be shot".

These letters, in which our enemies themselves testify to their horrible methods of making war, will be photographed, translated into the French, English, Italian, Swedish, Danish, Greek and Japanese languages and distributed in many thousands of copies in every country of the world.

GIFT
OCT 8 1915

Russia

Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry appointed by order of His Majesty
the Emperor of Russia.

pt 1-4

The Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, being of opinion that a graphic representation of the atrocities committed by the enemy's troops will afford more objective and convincing proof of the facts than mere abstract narrative, has decided to publish brief accounts of each case of mutilation, illustrated by portraits of the victims and descriptions of the cruelties inflicted upon them.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.



La Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête instituée par l'ordre de Sa Majesté
l'Empereur de Russie.

Considérant la méthode graphique de représenter les actes de brutalité commis par les armées ennemies plus apte, que la méthode purement logique à les démontrer d'une manière claire et précise, la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête publiera une série de notices biographiques sur les victimes de ces actes, accompagnées de documents photographiques et de descriptions des atrocités, dont elles ont été l'objet.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,
Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

No 1.

Vasili Vodyanoi, aged 24, a Corporal in one of the Russian infantry regiments, was made prisoner by German troops on the 27th April this year near the town of Sh — while reconnoitring the enemy.

A German subaltern in a forest, in the presence of two privates, demanded information from Vodyanoi as to the position of the Russian Staff and the number of Russian infantry troops, and threatened to gouge out his eyes and cut off his ears if he refused to obey.

As Vodyanoi declined to give the required information, the German subaltern, cursing the while, drew his kinjal and cut off, first the lobe of Vodyanoi's left ear and then the helix of his right ear. The German then said :— "we'll teach you how to speak", whereupon he seized Vodyanoi by the throat and throttled him until he fainted.

Vodyanoi lay senseless for several hours. When he recovered consciousness he felt that his tongue had been cut out.

In spite of the pain from these injuries and the loss of blood, Vodyanoi managed to crawl at random out of the wood, and was soon able to attract the attention of a Russian patrol, who took him to one of the Staffs of the Russian Army.

The foregoing was confirmed on oath by Vodyanoi under examination by a member of the Extraordinary Commission.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.



Ефрейторъ пѣхотнаго полка
Василій Терентьевъ
ВОДЯНОЙ.



Ефрейтор пѣхотнаго полка
Василій Терентьевъ
ВОДЯНОЙ.

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Nº 2.

Le 15 mars au soir, Porphyre Panassiouk, âgé de 26 ans, sous-officier du détachement d'éclaireurs de l'état major de l'armée X., a été capturé par un peloton du 7^e régiment de cavalerie allemande et conduit au village Rosochi, où une dizaine d'officiers allemands l'interrogèrent sur la disposition de nos corps d'armée. Panassiouk ayant refusé de parler, un des Allemands, officier d'état major, lui dit en russe: „cesse ces plaisanteries, nous t'avons vu souvent sur différents points de notre front“, sur quoi il donna un ordre en allemand. Un autre officier apporta alors une paire de ciseaux, dont le premier se servit pour enlever à Panassiouk le lobe de l'oreille droite, pour le contraindre à parler. N'ayant rien obtenu de Panassiouk, par ce moyen, ce même officier lui enleva à deux reprises trois autres morceaux de la même oreille, au-dessus du lobe, ensuite il le saisit par le nez avec une telle violence, qu'il le lui tordit; finalement il lui asséna un coup au visage.

Le même soir Panassiouk parvint à s'évader et à rejoindre l'armée russe.

Le témoignage ci-dessus a été reçu de Panassiouk le 9 mai par un des Membres de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête, avec la garantie du serment.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire

d'Enquête, Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

No 2.

On the evening of the 15th of March this year, the senior subaltern of a reconnoitring detachment belonging to the staff of the — Army named Porphyry Panasuk, aged 26, was out scouting when he was captured by a German picket and taken to the village of Kozzokhi. Here about ten German officers began to question him as to the positions of our Siberian and other army corps and promised to reward him handsomely for the desired information. Panasuk, however, refused to communicate anything. Then one of the General staff officers present said to Panasuk in Russian; "No more nonsense! we have seen you at several places all along our front". At the same time this officer gave some order in German. Immediately another officer brought a small pair of scissors, with which the officer of the General Staff cut off the lobe of Panasuk's right ear. This outrage was accompanied by the words: "Well, how do you like that; perhaps now you will tell us something?" But as even this did not induce Panasuk to comply, the same officer with the scissors clipped off three more pieces, one after the other, from the same ear of his stoical victim, whom he then seized so violently by the nose that the latter was much injured and bent. Finally, to complete this savage treatment of an inoffensive prisoner, the officer referred to struck Panasuk in the face.

The same evening Panasuk succeeded in effecting his escape, and in the course of several days reached our troops.

The foregoing facts were sworn to by Panasuk under examination by a member of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry on the 9th of May.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.



Старший унтер-офицеръ
Порфирій Герасимовъ
ПАНАСЮКЪ.

No 3.

On the 2nd of May a Cossack soldier of the N— regiment named Ivan Pichuev, aged 33, was taken prisoner by the Germans near the village of O—.

Being questioned by his captors as to the positions and number of the Russian troops, Pichuev refused to give them any information on the subject, whereupon the Germans began to torture him. First of all they hung him up by the hands; then they suspended him head downwards, and as this treatment failed to produce the desired effect of making him divulge military secrets, several German officers, assisted by a German soldier acting under their orders, proceeded to clip off the lobe of Pichuev's right ear. Even this did not shake his firm resolve not to betray the Russian Army, and therefore his tormentors next carved off the upper part, or helix of his left ear. Finally, they slit 4 long parallel gashes in the flesh of his right hip to imitate the 2 stripes of a Cossack's trousers and threatened to hang him outright on the following day.

Fortunately, on the evening of the 3rd of May, Pichuev succeeded in escaping from the Germans and reached the Russian lines in safety.

The above facts have been confirmed on oath by Pichuev under examination before the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

On the 7th of May, Pichuev was examined by the doctors of the Moscow Lazaret of St. Seraphim, belonging to the Russian Red Cross Society, in the presence of Colonel Robert Cormick, of the National Guard of the United States of North America, and a German officer prisoner named Theodore Raabe.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

№ 3.



Младший урядникъ Казачьяго полка
Иванъ Егоровъ
ПИЧУЕВЪ.

TO THE
LIBRARY OF THE
CONGRESS

№ 3.



Младший урядникъ Казачьяго полка
Иванъ Егоровъ
ПИЧУЕВЪ.

TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Nº 4.

Le témoignage, qui suit, a été reçu en forme judiciaire, avec la garantie du serment, d'un habitant de Kieff Judco Blankmann, originaire de Berditcheff, âgé de 37 ans.

Blankmann se trouvait depuis 1913 à New-York, où il avait entrepris un commerce de fruits. Il habitait chez son frère, rue 180, maison Nº 906. Dans le courant du mois d'avril il avait pris à la „Banque Publique“, rue Delens, un billet pour le „Lusitania“, qui partait le 30 avril, pour Liwerpool. Blankmann s'étant promené avec son frère au port, fit la remarque, qu'on n'avait pas encore procédé au chargement du paquebot. Le 30 avril, étant venu au débarcadère à 9 heures, il assista à l'ouverture des entrées du „Lusitania“, qu'on commençait dès lors à charger, n'acceptant toutefois à bord que le bagage des voyageurs et les provisions de route pour le restaurant. Blankmann certifie qu'il n'y avait ni canons, ni fusils, ni mitrailleuses, ni munitions de guerre.

Au cours du voyage, Blankmann apprit qu'il y avait à bord une centaine de Russes dont il ne connaît pas les noms.

Le 7 mai, comme on était près de la côte d'Irlande, il entendit un bruit formidable. Voyant le bateau pencher, Blankmann saisit une ceinture de sauvetage, se précipite sur le pont; une seconde détonation éclate et la proue du paquebot disparaît sous l'eau. Se rendant compte du danger, Blankmann se jette à la mer.

Quelques instants après le „Lusitania“ avait disparu.

Blankmann, soutenu par une ceinture de sauvetage, lutta pendant deux heures et demie, après quoi il perdit connaissance et ne revint à lui qu'à bord du bateau, qui l'avait recueilli et qui l'emmenait à Queenstown où il passa deux semaines à l'hôpital, la jambe paralysée, après quoi il revint à Kieff, par Liwerpool, ayant perdu dans le naufrage 150 dollars et pour 160 dollars de bagage.

Blankmann a témoigné en anglais par écrit qu'il n'y avait aucun article de guerre à bord du „Lusitania“.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

No 4.

Yudko Blankman, a native of Berdicheff, now residing at Kiev, has deposed on oath before an Examining Magistrate, that in 1913 he went to New York, to his brother Joseph, who was then lodging at No.906 on No.180 Street, and started in business to sell fruit.

In the month of April 1913, he called at the "Public Bank" in Delin Street and purchased a ticket to return home by the steamer "Lusitania", which was to leave New York for Liverpool on the 30th of April.

For three days before the departure of this steamer he and his brother walked about the port and they noticed that no cargo whatever was being loaded on the "Lusitania".

On the 30th of April, Blankman arrived at the port at 9 o'clock in the morning. The port officials opened the gangways into the "Lusitania", and from that moment they began to load her only with passenger luggage together with provisions for the kitchen. No war material of any kind was put on board, neither cannon, machine guns, rifles, shells nor parts of submarines.

After the steamer had left and was on her way across the ocean, Blankman discovered that there were about 100 Russians on board, but he did not know their names. On the 7th of May, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when the "Lusitania" was approaching the coast of Ireland, a terrible noise was heard and the steamer began to list on one side. Blankman put on a life belt and rushed up on to the deck. A second explosion then occurred and the vessel's stern began to rise and her prow to sink beneath the waves. Blankman saw that the steamer was going down and jumped into the sea. When he came to the surface the "Lusitania" had disappeared.

Blankman remained in the water about two hours and a half and finally became unconscious. When he came to his senses he was on another steamer, which landed him at Queenstown, where he lay for two weeks in hospital with a paralyzed leg. He subsequently passed through Liverpool and arrived at Kiev. He lost 150 dollars on the steamer and his luggage, worth 160 dollars.

Blankman has written in English and stated that on board the "Lusitania" there was nothing whatever in any way relating to military matters.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.



Юдко-Говшій Гешелевъ
БЛАНКМАНЪ.

Юдко говшій гешелевъ Бланкманъ
собственнo рурно тини по англійски,
am siden man self th chr Lysitania
geven nating for th wor nat colgers
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Bylis nat Begons Jones Blankman

И.д.Судебнаго Слѣдователя
по особо важнымъ дѣламъ

X
GIFT
OCT 8 1915

Russia. —

Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry appointed by order of His Majesty
pt 5-8 the Emperor of Russia.

The Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry now publishes a fresh series of cases, representing the further results of its labours.

The Commission refrains from giving expression to its feelings in having to record particulars of the way in which women, who have had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the Germans, as well as officers captured by them, have been treated by the enemy's troops. It believes that a bare recital of the facts, as these are set forth in the accounts issued by the Commission, will be ample and eloquent proof of the conduct of our unscrupulous foe.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,
President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

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22

La Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête instituée par l'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie.

La Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête publie un nouveau fascicule de ses travaux.

La Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête n'exprime aucun des sentiments qui l'agitent, à coucher sur ses procès-verbaux les faits qui caractérisent les traitements infligés par les troupes ennemies aux femmes que le malheur fait tomber entre leurs mains, aux officiers capturés, etc., car elle considère qu'une simple énonciation des actes exposés dans les fascicules qu'elle fait paraître est par elle-même une preuve éloquente de la façon dont notre ennemi se comporte.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

Du torpillage du „Lusitania“.

Les sujets russes: Jacques (Samsonof) Schkredof, Jean (Gri-gorief) Mazourof, Antoine (Ignatief) Grischkévitch, Jean (Théodorof) Tarassiévitch, Grégoire Iountschik, Denis Bajénof et Philippe Bajénof s'embarquèrent à New-lork sur le „Lusitania“ le 1-er mai—nouveau style—de cette année, pour regagner leur patrie.

Le 7 mai, à deux heures passées, l'un des passagers de 3-e classe, le sujet russe Grégoire Iountschik, qui se trouvait sur le pont, à la proue du navire, aperçut entre deux eaux, s'avancant à grande vitesse, un corps de couleur sombre et de forme allongée, assez semblable à un poisson. Lorsque, sous les yeux du témoin Iountschik, cet objet eut frappé à tribord la carène du „Lusitania“, une explosion retentit, suivie d'un formidable craquement; puis, Iountschik vit une forte voie d'eau ouverte au flanc du navire. Le „Lusitania“ s'inclina à tribord et bientôt se mit à sombrer. 15 minutes après la susdite explosion de la mine lancée par un sous-marin allemand le vapeur avait coulé.

Sur les 82 passagers russes qui étaient à bord, 20 seulement échappèrent à la mort. Au nombre de ces derniers, les précités, rentrés en Russie, furent, sur l'ordre de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête, interrogés sous serment par les pouvoirs instructeurs et déposèrent que le „Lusitania“, n'était point armé et qu'il n'y avait à bord aucune cargaison de guerre, soit: ni canons, fusils, mitrailleuses, munitions de guerre ou pièces détachées de sous-marins, et qu'il ne pouvait y en avoir, le vapeur, aménagé pour le seul service des passagers, n'acceptant comme cargaison que les bagages des voyageurs. Le témoin Blankman, dont la déposition figure au premier fascicule des travaux de la Commission, en avait certifié de même.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

The Sinking of the „Lusitania“.

On the 1st of May, old style, the following Russian subjects, namely,—Jacob Samsonov Skredov, Ivan Grigoriev Mazurok, Anton Ignatiev Grishkehich, Ivan Fedorov Tarasevich, Yegor Yunchik, Denis Bazhenov and Philip Bazhenov, all left New York to return to their native country on board the steamship „Lusitania“.

On the 7th of May, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, one of these Russians, Yegor Yunchik, a third class passenger, was on the foredeck and while looking out to sea he caught sight of a long dark object, like a large fish, rapidly approaching the „Lusitania“ beneath the surface of the water. When it struck the submerged part of the vessel amidships on the starboard side, in full view of the witness, there was an explosion and terrific crash, after which Yunchik noticed, that an enormous breach had been made in the side of the steamer. The „Lusitania“ listed to starboard and began to sink rapidly. Within 15 minutes after the explosion of the mine from the German submarine the steamer went down.

From amongst 82 Russians on board only 20 were saved, including the persons above named. These men, on their arrival in Russia, were interrogated under oath by the judicial authorities in pursuance of an order of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. They deposed, that the „Lusitania“ was not armed and that she carried no military cargo, that is to say, no cannons, rifles, machine guns, ammunition, nor parts of submarine boats. In fact, this steamer could not have taken in any such cargo, as she was adapted only to passenger traffic and only passenger luggage was accepted. This was confirmed by the witness Blankman, whose evidence is given in the first publication of the work of the Commission.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

№ 5.



Младшій унтеръ-офицеръ пѣхотнаго полка
Алексѣй Даниловъ
МАКУХА.

Nº 6.

Le sous-officier en second d'un régiment d'infanterie, André Akifiew et les caporaux Paul Mikhaïlof et Mirone Kouzmine ont été blessés par les troupes allemandes dans la nuit du 21 au 22 avril 1915, alors qu'ils se glissaient vers les positions ennemies, situées sur la B.

Birakhman Tourabaïef, soldat aux tirailleurs, a été blessé par les Allemands le 30 mai 1915, dans le secteur de S.

L'examen médical auquel ces hommes ont été soumis a établi que tous avaient été blessés par des balles explosibles: chez Akifiew, la balle a éclaté dans la région de l'épaule; chez Mikhaïlof, le projectile a déchiré les muscles jusqu'à la ligne extérieure de l'aisselle; quant à Kouzmine, la blessure lui a déchiré les chairs au bas de la jambe gauche, près du pied. Chez Tourabaïef, atteint à la joue gauche, l'orifice du canal ouvert par la balle présente aux yeux „une énorme déchirure toute meurtrie s'étendant sur la joue droite entière.“ La langue, les deux maxillaires et l'os de la pommette droite ont été fracassés et le palais, arraché de sa base, offrait une ouverture vers la région nasale et la base du cerveau.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

№ 6.

The junior subaltern of an infantry regiment named Andrei Akeefiev and corporals Paul Mikhailov and Miron Kuzmin were wounded by German troops on the night of the 22nd of April 1915, while they were making their way to the enemy's positions on the river B....

Birakhman Turabaiev, a private in one of the regiments of riflemen, was wounded by German troops on the 30th. of May 1915 in the district of C....

A medical examination proved that these men had all been wounded by explosive bullets. The bullet, which wounded Akeefiev, entered just above the right elbow and burst open all the upper part of the arm in the region of the shoulder. Mikhailov had the muscles across the small part of his back torn and exposed and Kuzmin had a lacerated wound on the ankle of his left foot. Turabaiev was wounded in the left cheek, the exit gap of the bullet's passage representing „a huge, lacerated and shattered wound, extending over the whole of the right cheek“. This man Turabaiev had his tongue torn to pieces, both jaws and the right cheek bone smashed and in the roof of his mouth, torn from it's base, there was an opening, leading to the nose and the base of the brain.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

Рядовой стрѣльцовато полка
БІРАХМАНЪ ТУРАБАЕВЪ.

70 200
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№ 6.



Ефрейторъ
ПАВЕЛЪ МИХАЙЛОВЪ.

№ 6.



Младшій унтеръ-офицеръ
АНДРЕЙ АКИФЬЕВЪ.

UNIT OF
CALIFORNIA

№ 6.



Ефрейторъ
МИРОНЪ КУЗЬМИНЪ.

№ 7.

On the 9-th October 1914 Staff Captain Dumbadzi, Lieutenant Speransky and volunteers named Rotvand and Israelovich discovered the charred remains of a Russian soldier with his legs tied together in the village of Khilichki, previously occupied by German troops, in the province of Warsaw. Beneath the corpse were still the remains of the fire, a large quantity of used cartridge cases, and in the body, under some rotten pieces of clothing, they found several bullets.

Judging by some shreds of uniform and overcoat remaining on the man's stomach, also by the metallic parts of a rifle, lying near the body and bearing the number 123859, as well as by other remnants of equipment, the above mentioned officers were able to conclude, that the body was that of a Russian rifleman, who had been burnt alive by the Germans.

On the invitation of the discoverers of these remains, the latter were inspected by Sub-Lieutenant Stoliarenko, who made a report on the subject to his superiors. A photograph of the body was taken by the volunteer Rotvand.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

№ 7.



Снимокъ съ трупа
заживо - сожженного германскими войсками
рядового одного изъ стрѣльцовыхъ полковъ.

N^o 8.

L'enseigne Tarassenko et le soldat Zavialoff, se trouvant le 18 mai 1915 dans une tranchée d'observation, sur notre front de la rivière B..., entendirent, à l'aube du jour, quelques légères détonations éclater dans le camp allemand. Ils virent en même temps des flammes et une fumée d'un jaune verdâtre, qui, après s'être étalée devant les tranchées allemandes, se rabattait, poussée par le vent, sur les nôtres.

Devinant qu'ils avaient à faire aux gaz asphyxiants, nouvellement mis en usage par les Allemands, Tarassenko et Zavialoff prirent sur-le-champ les mesures nécessaires contre l'action des gaz.

L'ingénieur Joukovsky, qui a visité avec le Membre de la Douma Goutchkoff les lieux, où les Allemands avaient opéré avec les gaz asphyxiants et plusieurs autres témoins, interrogés par la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête, témoignent des souffrances atroces des combattants asphyxiés. Ils les ont examinés sur les champs de bataille et affirment que leur état était plus pénible que celui des blessés. Les tourments de ces malheureuses victimes étaient, au dire des témoins, le plus lamentable spectacle qu'ils aient jamais vu.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

№ 8.



Рядовой стрѣлковаго полка
МУЛЛАНУРЪ МАНБАЛЕВЪ.

Пострадавшій отъ удушливыхъ газовъ.

№ 8.



Рядовой стрѣльцоваго полка
АНТОНЪ МАРЦИНКЕВИЧЪ.

Умершій отъ удушливыхъ газовъ.

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pt. 9-12

Russia —

Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry appointed by order of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia.

In publishing this fresh series of cases, as a further result of its labours, the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry takes occasion to affirm once more, that the Germans and Austro-Hungarians have outraged, and continue to outrage, all moral dictates of conscience, the binding acts of human legislation and the rules of international law, which human progress has evolved during the course of centuries.

As will be seen from the verified and attested facts, contained in the present publication, our enemies continue thus to violate those principles of civilisation, which have become part of the consciousness of all mankind, and which have been solemnly sanctioned at European Conferences by the signatures of the Powers now at war.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

La Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête instituée par l'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie.

La Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête publie un nouveau fascicule de ses travaux et déclare encore une fois que tout ce que l'humanité a mis des siècles à élaborer en qualité de devoirs immuables de moralité et de conscience, à titre de dispositions obligatoires des lois humaines, comme normes du droit des gens, dont se sont pénétrées toutes les nations et solennellement reconnues dans les congrès européens par la signature des puissances aujourd'hui belligérantes, a été et est présentement violé par les Allemands et les Austro-hongrois, ainsi qu'il ressort des faits recueillis par l'instruction et exposés en ce fascicule.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Kriutçoff*.

Nº 9.

Pierre Ivanovitch Sokolof, trésorier général à Kalysch, chef-lieu du gouvernement de ce nom, sur l'ordre de ses chefs, brûla le 20 juillet 1914 toutes les valeurs, pièces et billets de banque qui se trouvaient à la trésorerie.

Lorsque les troupes ennemies entrèrent à Kalysch, le 22 juillet, des soldats allemands se saisirent de Sokolof, l'entraînèrent chez le commandant de la place, le major Preisker, à qui, lors de l'interrogatoire auquel il fut soumis, Sokolof relata l'anéantissement des valeurs que lui avait confiées le Gouvernement. Là-dessus, sur l'ordre du major Preisker, deux soldats allemands du 155-e régiment emmenèrent Sokolof sur la place, où ils le fusillèrent. Son corps resta plusieurs jours gisant sur la place; car, malgré les supplications de la femme et des enfants du défunt, le major Preisker n'autorisait point l'ensevelissement.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

No 9.

Peter Ivanovich Sokolov was cashier at the provincial Treasury Office in the town of Kalish, and on the 20th of July 1914, in obedience to orders received from his superiors, he burnt all the valuable papers then in the office, including all documents and paper money.

When the enemy's troops entered Kalish, on the 22nd of July, Sokolov was seized by German soldiers and taken before the German Commandant of the town, Major Preisker, who proceeded to question him. Sokolov declared, that he had destroyed all the Government property, committed to his charge. After this, by command of Major Preisker, two German soldiers of the 155th regiment led Sokolov out on to the public square and shot him. His dead body lay on the spot for several days, as in spite of the entreaties of the dead man's wife and children, Major Preisker refused to allow it to be buried.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

№ 9.



Калишскій губернский казначей
Петръ Ивановичъ
СОКОЛОВЪ.



Фельдфебель полка
Алексѣй Максимовъ
КОРШУНОВЪ.

THE
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OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



Фельдфебель полка
Алексѣй Максимовъ
КОРШУНОВЪ.

No 11.

Evasion de trois officiers et de sept soldats de l'armée russe.

Vers la mi-mai 1915, les soldats, Gabriel Serdiouk, Jean Timashevsky, Joseph Korbal, Jean Pankine et Michel Korénief s'évadèrent du lieu de leur captivité en Allemagne et gagnèrent le Danemark.

Pendant leur captivité, ils avaient été versés en des camps de concentration, dans des baraquements non-chauffés. On ne leur y donnait que la plus insuffisante alimentation: le matin et le soir, du café d'orge très dilué, sans sucre ni lait, ou une bouillie de farine; et, pour dîner, une maigre soupe de riz, de choux-raves ou de haricots; le pain, cuit par moitié de pommes de terre ou autres mélanges, ne leur était distribué qu'à raison d'une demi-livre, soit 200 grammes, par homme et par jour. Beaucoup tombèrent malades et moururent de ce régime. Néanmoins on forçait les captifs à travailler et ceux qui tombaient d'épuisement étaient si rudement frappés que certains d'entre eux moururent des coups qu'on leur avait donnés.

Les plus futiles manquements entraînaient pour les coupables les plus rigoureux châtiments: on leur infligeait des arrêts prolongés; on les faisait courir dans le sable jusqu'à complet épuisement; on les frappait à coups de joncs; on leur liait les bras sur le dos et on les suspendait de façon à ce que les pieds touchassent à peine la terre, et on les laissait plusieurs heures dans cette position; les hommes, après ce supplice, tombaient en syncope et certains en moururent.

No 11.

Escape of 3 Russian officers and 7 private soldiers from German captivity.

In the middle of May 1915 the following Russian privates escaped from captivity in Germany and succeeded in getting into Denmark, namely, Gabriel Serdyuk, Ivan Timashevsky, Joseph Korbal, Ivan Pankin and Michael Korenev. On arriving in Petrograd they were examined by Major-General Semashko, member of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, and warned that they would be required to swear to the truth of their statements.

As prisoners in Germany they were kept in cold sheds in the concentration camps, and the food, doled out to them, was of the poorest and scantiest description. Morning and evening they received thin, watery coffee, made out of malted barley without milk or sugar, or else a mess of flour and water. For dinner there was a thin porridge of rice, turnips or beans and bread, made half of potatoes and other admixtures, the quantity per diem being half a pound, or 200 grammes per man. Many sickened and died on this wretched fare.

The severest punishment was inflicted for the slightest mistake or fault. They were put under protracted arrest, driven over sand until absolutely exhausted, thrashed with canes, their hands tied behind their backs and thus pulled up until their feet scarcely touched the ground, in which position they were left several hours. After such punishment the men fell down as if dead, and some of them actually expired.



Три офицера русской армии,
бѣжавшіе изъ германскаго плѣна.



Семь бѣжавшихъ изъ германскаго плѣна
нижнихъ чиновъ русской арміи.

TO THE
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No 12.

Meurtre du garde-rural Abbakoumof.

Le 26 juillet 1914, un détachement allemand d'environ 150 hommes envahit le hameau de Soudargui, district de Vladislavof, gouvernement de Souvalky. En cet instant, le garde-rural de l'endroit, Abbakoumof, qui ignorait l'arrivée des Allemands, sortait de sa maison en uniforme, armé de son fusil. Aperçu de suite, par les Allemands, il fut blessé par l'un d'eux d'un coup de feu à la poitrine qui le traversa de part en part; il put cependant rentrer chez lui en courant. A peu près 25 soldats allemands s'y engouffrèrent à sa suite lui posèrent en criant des questions en allemand, langue qu'Abbakoumof ne comprenait point. Puis, continuant à vociférer des menaces, et sans prêter attention aux supplications de sa femme, Eléonore Abbakoumof, qui se traînait à leurs genoux en demandant grâce, ils l'entraînèrent dans la cour de la maison, où l'un d'eux, après lui avoir coupé le nez et les deux oreilles avec un poignard ou une baïonnette, l'étripa d'un coup porté au ventre.

Abbakoumof ne tarda pas à expirer au milieu d'atroces souffrances.

Selon le dire d'Eléonore Abbakoumof, il vint chez elle un officier allemand, qui lui demanda en langue lithuanienne qui avait torturé son mari, et pourquoi?; inscrivit ses nom et prénom sur son carnet et se retira.

Ce qui précède a été confirmé par la déposition de ladite Eléonore Abbakoumof, interrogée en qualité de témoin par le juge d'instruction du 3-e arrondissement du district de Troki, ressort du tribunal de Vilna.

Ci joint, le portrait d'Abbakoumof.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

No 12.

Murder of the watchman Abbakumov.

On the 26 th of July 1914 a German detachment, numbering about 150 men, entered the suburb of Sudárg, in the Vladislavovsky District, province of Suvalki. At the time a local watchman, named Abbakumov, who was unaware of the arrival of the enemy, left his lodging and went out on to the street in his uniform and carrying his rifle. He was observed by the Germans and at once shot through the chest. He succeeded in getting back to his house, but was closely followed by about 25 of the German soldiers, who were shouting something in German, which Abbakumov, of course, did not understand. The Germans continued to shout and threaten, and in spite of the entreaties of Abbakumov's wife, Eleonora, who went down on her knees before them and begged for mercy, they dragged out her husband into the yard, where one of them cut off his nose and both ears with a kinjal, or sword-bayonet and finally ripped open his bowels and exposed the poor man's intestines.

Abbakumov very soon expired in frightful agony.

According to the statement of Eleonora Abbakumova, a certain German officer called afterwards at her lodging and questioned her in the Lituianian language as to the reasons of her husband having been tortured, and who had done it, and after writing the name in a book, he went away.

The above mentioned circumstances have been depicted to me by the evidence of one said Zakhara Abrikosova, who was interrogated as a witness by the Examining Magistrate of the 3rd part of the Terek District of the District Court of Vilna. A portrait of Kolesnikov accompanies the present paper.

ALEXIS KRIYTSOV.

Secretary.

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

№ 12.



Стражникъ посада Сударги,
Владиславовскаго уѣзда, Сувалкской губ.
АББАКУМОВЪ.

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Russian Embassy

13-18

Russia. —

Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry appointed by order of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia.

The Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry now sends forth the next serial number of its published labours.

Another long list is given of outrages perpetrated by our enemies, not only in contravention of the usages of war, but also in open defiance of all laws human and divine. Once more the feelings of an indignant humanity are only restrained with the greatest difficulty in recording the frightful deeds here brought to light. It is almost impossible to remain calm and impartial in contemplating the exploits of men, who murder unarmed wounded soldiers in cold blood, burn prisoners of war alive, violate sisters of mercy and deliberately indite instructions for the use of deadly gases and burning fluids against their fellow creatures. But the Commission has a deep faith in the ultimate triumph of right and justice. It firmly believes, that solemn treaties between peoples, who fully appreciate the moral significance of such international compacts, will never be regarded as mere „scraps of paper“, and only these considerations enable the Commission to maintain a proper judicial frame of mind while investigating the horrors of the German system of warfare, examples of which are furnished in the following pages.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

German treatment of Russian prisoners.

On the 28th August, during the fighting in the region of the Mazura Lakes in East Prussia, the Germans captured about 300 Russian soldiers, including Gabriel Piskunov, a junior subaltern, and privates Ivan Abramov and Kozma Nazarov. All the prisoners were first of all searched and relieved of their money and everything else of any value. Then the Germans picked out all the Russians, who were distinguished by wearing medals and crosses and shot them dead on the spot. The rest were made to tramp to Letzen. Those who lagged behind were goaded on with the butt-ends of rifles and when some fell down quite exhausted the men of the German escort despatched them at the point of the bayonet. Along the road they were reviled by the natives, who also pelted them with stones and sticks and German cavalymen in passing by stabbed them with their lances without the least cause or reason. In this way the prisoners were forced to march the whole day without food or drink. In the evening they reached Letzen and were entrained in goods wagons or trucks, which had just been evacuated by horses. 80 or 90 men were crowded into each truck with closely shut doors and thus they were conveyed to Stendal. The journey took two days, and all that time the prisoners were not once let out of the trucks, or allowed to taste even the usual thin black coffee. At Stendal they were taken to a concentration camp, in which about 10,000 men were interned. According to the accounts, given by the prisoners, the life there was frightful. They were so badly fed, that many

died of ill-nourishment and exhaustion, whilst the strongest men amongst them became so feeble, that they might have been knocked down with a feather. The German sentries treated the captives with the utmost rigour and cruelty. For the slightest mistake or offence they were beaten with the butt-ends of rifles, worried by dogs and tied up to a post for several hours at a time.

Having made up their minds to break loose, Piskunov, Abramov and Nazarov began to prepare for flight. From one of the Russian prisoners they procured a compass and a French prisoner presented them with a map of the railways of Prussia and Hesse. After collecting a little bread, they at last made good their escape from the camp on the night of the 31 st of May, and on the 29 th of June they passed over into Holland. They travelled mostly at night and remained in concealment during the daytime. They were more than once pursued, but they always managed to elude their pursuers and hide themselves. At first they lived on the bread taken with them and afterwards they gathered vegetables in the fields. On one occasion they were so starved, that they devoured a raw sucking pig. They suffered a great deal from cold and rain. They crossed the Dutch frontier without knowing it, and they only found it out by noticing large quantities of oats stored in barns in one of the towns, which they regarded as an impossible sight at that time in Germany, and because the shopkeepers refused to accept German money.

In Holland they met with a very friendly reception. They received food and clothing and were sent on to London and thence back to Russia.

The foregoing has been deposed to by Piskunov, Abramov and Nazarov, after having been admonished, that they would be required to swear to the truth of the statement.

A peasant named Peter Yakovlev Shimchak, belonging to the first category of army reserves, was in Denmark when war was declared, and whilst going over to England, in the early part of August 1914, on board an English sailing vessel, he was taken prisoner by the Germans and at first placed in solitary confinement, in a gaol at Hamburg. Subsequently he was removed to a concentration camp near Berlin, called „Zeile-lager“, occupied by Russian, French, English and Belgian prisoners. The accommodation consisted of sheds constructed of deal planks, without stoves or flooring. There were no beds or bedsteads and the prisoners had to sleep on the bare ground, littered with finely chopped straw. The consequence was, that the men sometimes had their hands and feet frozen. With regard to food, they received in the morning black coffee without sugar or bread; for dinner they had soup made out of sea-kale and a quarter of a pound of bread and the same quantity of bread for supper.

Notwithstanding this scanty amount of nourishment, the prisoners were not infrequently put to very hard and sometimes extremely tiring work. For instance, they were made to drag carts and they were also harnessed to ploughs together with the cattle. For the slightest disobedience or deviation from the usual order of things they were knocked about with the butt ends of rifles, or thrashed with sticks of guttapercha, which were supplied to all the sentries, and some of them were tightly bound with rope to a post and left in that position for a couple of hours. After this punishment their arms and legs were so benumbed, that it sometimes took two and three hours for them to recover. As a refinement of cruelty they were forced to kneel on broken pieces of brick for about a couple of hours, with only short intervals of relief, so that their knees were cut and sore. The sentries would not allow them to kneel on the flat and smooth pieces of brick, but kept them to the sharp and rough bits.

Whilst interned as a prisoner, Shimchak witnessed two most striking cases of German barbarity. On one occasion he saw the German sentries in his camp bayonet a Russian soldier because, for some reason or other, he had thrown a stone at one of them. At another time four Cossacks were brought into the camp. Looking through the chinks in the walls of his shed, Shimchak saw the Cossacks taken out into the open yard, where one of them was led up to a block of wood on which his left hand was held down whilst one of the German sentries unfastened the bayonet from his rifle and cut off with it first of all half the Cossack's first finger, then half of his middle finger and finally his little finger. These amputated finger pieces were thrust into the pocket of the mutilated Cossack's overcoat and he was conducted to a shed apart. Then the second Cossack was brought forward to the block and they pierced both his ears with the bayonet; turning it round in order to make the wounds as large as possible. The third Cossack had to submit to his nose being cut off, but as the severed part was still hanging by the lower skin, he begged the Germans to cut it off completely. One of them therefore handed him a penknife, with which the Cossack completed the amputation of his own nose. The fourth Cossack, when led up to the block, seized the sword bayonet of the nearest German and struck another German with it on the arm, whereupon all the German soldiers present instantly rushed at him and stabbed him to death.

In June 1915 Shimchak accidentally got possession of a Danish passport and managed to escape to Russia.

He has sworn to the truth of the foregoing account before the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Petrograd, who examined him pursuant to instructions from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

* * *

On the 3-rd of February 1915 Egor Stroikov, senior subaltern of an infantry regiment was wounded in the left leg at a battle near the village of „Dalny Lyes“, in the Augustin Forest, and taken to one of the houses in that village to have his wound dressed. The Russian troops, however, were soon obliged to beat a hasty retreat, and Stroikov, together with 11 other severely wounded Russians, fell into the hands of the Germans. When the latter arrived on the scene they simply counted and registered the wounded and then left them without any further attention. For two days these prisoners received neither food nor medical relief. Their wounds began to suppurate and the bandages were getting wet. When they begged for bread the German soldiers and officers replied, „we've got no bread for you“, and when they asked to have their wounds dressed they were told to go to an ambulance station, which was over a mile away from the village, and there was no possibility of the wounded men reaching this point without assistance.

The third day the wounded were ordered to move into an adjoining room, as in the one in which they were staying the Russian doctors had performed operations and there was a great deal of blood and a quantity of dirty rags, which emitted a very offensive smell. No help, however, was given to the wounded to make this removal, and they were only able to carry out the orders of the Germans thanks to the Polish landlord of the house, who brought a plank, on which he dragged each of the wounded Russians from one room to the other. Throughout the following days these wounded men continued to remain without food, and they underwent great suffering from their inflamed and festering wounds. Sometimes they bought a little bread with the help of the Polish landlord, and two of them, who were not so badly wounded as the others, managed to go out into the village and bring back a few raw potatoes. On one occasion a German officer called upon them, and when Stroikov asked him for assistance he answered in broken Russian, „you

will get nothing" and spat in Stroikov's face. This treatment lasted 22 days, until the Russian troops returned and released the captives. By that time two of them had died, and the body of one was left in the room two days before the Germans took it away.

Stroikov deposed to all the foregoing facts before the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Moscow, pursuant to instructions from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. He further stated, that the helmets of the German soldiers, occupying the village, bore the numbers 35, 36, and 37.

No 13.

Russian prisoners of war burnt to death by Germans.

On the 18th of February 1915, during a battle at the village of Novui-Dvori, in the province of Lomzha, the Germans captured 30 wounded Russian soldiers and lodged them in a separate house. Here they were kept for three days without food or medical assistance. Only drinking water was given to them by some of the Germans of a sanitary detachment in the village. When the Germans withdrew, on the third night, they set fire to this house, having first of all put a number of cartridges in the roof. When the wounded Russians inside began to smell smoke and hear explosions in the roof, those, who were in the least degree able to move, started to crawl out of the house through a door that had been left unlocked, but only ten managed to escape; the rest, most of whom had received very severe wounds, were burnt to death.

The above was confirmed on oath by one of the men, who escaped, named Alexander Andreyev Triastsin, a private in the regiment and who was interrogated by the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Eletz, acting under instructions from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

Russian prisoners shot by Germans.

On the 28th of August 1914, during the retreat of the Russian forces from East Prussia, Ensign Ilia Andreyevich Andreyev, aged 30, of an infantry regiment, was anxious to save a maxim gun, that had been abandoned on the positions, and for that purpose he remained behind with some of his men and was eventually obliged to return to the regiment through a locality, occupied by the enemy.

Towards morning, on learning from his scouts of the approach of a patrol of the enemy, Andreyev and his men dug out for themselves a place of concealment in the steep, broken bank of the river, and from this refuge they soon saw an entire squadron of the enemy's cavalry going through the river as an escort to about 50 Russian prisoners. On reaching the opposite bank, the Germans reformed into a semi-circle round the prisoners and fired two volleys into their midst killing them all, after which they galloped off in the opposite direction.

The foregoing has been certified to by Andreyev during interrogation before the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Moscow, by order of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

Russian prisoners thrown into the river San by Germans.

During an advance of the Germans on the Russian left flank, near Yaroslav, in the month of May last, they made prisoners of a company of one of the Russian infantry regiments, and were then obliged to retire across the river San before the pressure of the Russian troops.

The Germans placed the Russian prisoners in boats, and on arriving at the opposite bank they took them out one by one, raised them on the points of their bayonets and then threw the wounded Russians into the river San. This was done in full view of the undermentioned witnesses.

The above is attested by the evidence of the former infantry private, Nicholas Ephgrafov Teekhenko and corporal Peter Kharlamov Shpilev, who were interrogated, pursuant to instructions from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, by an Examining Magistrate, after having been warned, that they would be required to take an oath as to the truth of their statements. Corroborative evidence was also given by senior subalterns, Anton Romanov, Serge Prigunov, and others.



No 14.

Torture of a Cossack prisoner by Germans.

Ivan Efremov Zinoviev, senior subaltern in a Cossack regiment, received a wound in his left thigh while taking part in operations near Tarnova on the 23rd of May 1915 and was immediately afterwards made prisoner by the Germans.

On the following day Zinoviev underwent examination in the presence of 8 German officers and 2 doctors. He was unable to specify the troops to which these examining officers belonged, but he noticed, that the facings on their coat collars were green and that one of them had the number „21“ on his forage cap.

As Zinoviev professed ignorance in reply to all questions, regarding the number and positions of the Russian forces, the interpreting officer struck him several times with his fist in the face and used the expression—„speak up you Russian swine!“.

Zinoviev was then led into another room, where there was a dynamo engine as well as a table and a cabinet, or book case. Here, they stripped him naked and placed him upon the table. Having first of all examined his wound, the doctors began to feel the calf of his left leg and discuss something with one of the officers present. As soon as the conversation was over, this officer took a needle attached to the wires of the electrical machine and applied it to a place on Zinoviev's leg indicated by the doctors. Zinoviev, however, in spite of the electric shock, stubbornly refused to answer the questions, which were put to him by the officer, every time the latter shut off the electricity. This torture lasted half an hour and one of the doctors watched Zinoviev's pulse all the time. The same torturing process was repeated on the second and third days and at last the electric current was made so strong that Zinoviev, in describing his condition declared, that he was „all of a shake“.

On the fourth day Zinoviev was again interrogated, but although the German officers used very bad language and threatened to „skin him alive!“, he persisted in his refusal to answer questions. Being, therefore, unable to extract any information from him by these means, the interpreting officer brought a red hot bar of iron, about as thick as a finger, and ordered his men to place the prisoner undergoing torture in a sitting posture

on a chair. The doctors then took hold of his arms, while the officer lifted up his legs and rubbed the red hot iron over the soles of Zinoviev's feet. After a while one of the doctors, who was looking at his watch and counting Zinoviev's pulse, made a sign with his hand for the torture to cease. Zinoviev fainted from the pain of the scorching and only recovered his senses some time afterwards in a cart-shed, where he was being kept in confinement.

The same night Zinoviev managed to escape and join the Russian troops. He got out of the shed through a hole, previously dug beneath the walls.

The truth of the foregoing has been sworn to by Zinoviev before the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Minsk, by whom he was interrogated, pursuant to instructions from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. A medical certification was also made of the scars, left from the burns on his feet, and the puncturing of the electrical needle.

№ 15.

German soldiers tear off the finger nails of a wounded Russian officer.

In the beginning of November 1914, during a battle not far from the town of Lovich, a Sub-lieutenant Alexei Neklyukov, of an infantry regiment, was contused in the head and wounded in one leg, so that he was obliged to fall out of the ranks and remain inactive until the fighting was over. He then tried to rejoin his company, but was captured by a picket of 4 German troopers, who led him away. Being very weak and giddy, he was soon

exhausted and sank to the ground, whereupon the Germans dismounted and began to ill-treat him with blows and kicks all over his body. One of them then took the boot off Neklyukov's wounded leg, pulled up the trowser, tore off the bandage and began to cut the leg across the wound. This made Neklyukov toss himself about in extreme pain. Then the Germans caught hold of the little finger of his left hand, thrust some thin metal instrument underneath the nail and tore half of it off. They did the same with his thumb on the left hand. The pain became unbearable and Neklyukov fainted. When he came to himself, after some little time, he found that he was lying alone on the ground and he also became aware, that the Germans had torn off all his nails from the fingers of both hands. Neklyukov got up on his legs somehow and started off without the least idea where he was going, but he soon fell in with a Russian patrol, who sent him in the right direction.

The above statement has been sworn to on oath by Neklyukov before the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Petrograd, in pursuance of instructions from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

No 16.

Russian wounded soldiers killed by Germans.

In the beginning of March 1915 a reconnoitring party of Russian cavalry came into contact with some German troopers near the village of Lodzi. The Germans dismounted and fired a volley at the Russian cavalymen, one of whom was wounded and fell from his horse, while his comrades galloped away.

The German soldiers then attacked the wounded Russian and struck him several blows with their sabres in the abdomen.

The senior surgeon of the 8th Siberian battalion, Boris Zveriev, received information of this incident from three peasants of Lodzi, named Ivan Bisorevich, Franz Krikshun and Vladislav Bozhovich, who pointed out the place where they had buried the Russian soldier in question. Zveriev accordingly had the body disinterred and made an examination of it. A bullet wound was found in the stomach and two stabs in the region of the sexual organs.

The above has been attested by the evidence of Zveriev, given before the Military Examining Magistrate.

* * *

On the 7th of August 1914, near Gumbinnen, during a German attack on the Russian positions, a senior subaltern of the regiment, named Alexis Smerdov, aged 25, who was lying on the battle field wounded in both legs, saw how the Germans bayoneted and shot all the Russians left in the trenches, including the Commander of his company, Bogdanov, and the sub-lieutenant Rogosky. Smerdov nearly met with the same fate, but fortunately, at the moment when a German soldier was about to bayonet him, a German subaltern intervened and merely deprived him of watch, field glass, whistle and compass. They then left Smerdov for a time in peace.

On the same day, during the retirement of the Germans in close columns, Smerdov noticed as they passed near to him, that they shot as many as 30 of the severely wounded Russians lying on the ground. A German stretcher bearer, with a Red Cross badge on his left arm, eventually came up to Smerdov, and in answer to the latter's signs expressing a wish to have the wounds in his legs bandaged, this German non-combatant drew a revolver from his

pocket and fired two shots at the wounded Smerdov. The first bullet struck the ground, but the second smashed the bone in Smerdov's right arm, and he is consequently no longer able to use it.

The foregoing has been attested by a combined judicial and medical investigation and by the evidence of Smerdov, who was interrogated on oath as a victim by the Examining Magistrate of the 5th ward of the city of Petrograd.

No 17.

The Germans use asphyxiating gases and inflammable fluids against the Russian troops.

I.

By the Hague Declaration of the 17/29 th of July 1899 the use of projectiles for spreading asphyxiating and noxious gas was prohibited.

Nevertheless, on the 26th of December 1914, on the river Ravka, the Germans discharged a quantity of suffocating gas against the Y...., infantry regiment, and caused suffering to subalterns Ivan Filatov Rumiantsev and other soldiers.

Subsequently asphyxiating gas was employed against the Russian troops on the following occasions: on the 20th of April 1915 at the villages of Rosenbark and Olshin, in Eastern Galicia, against the K..... infantry regiment; at the end of April 1915 on the Yaslo-Gorlits-Frishtak front; on the 18 th, 27th and 28 th of May on the 20 mile front of Gumin-Borzhimov-Volia-Shidlovskaja; on the 20 th of May in the Carpathians, on height „No 902“, against the I..... infantry regiment; from the 27 th of May till the 9 th of June on the river Aleshchits, near the town of Yaroslav, against

the O..... infantry regiment, on the 2 nd of June at the village of Korkovits, near the town of Yavor, on the front of the V..... infantry regiment; on the 14th of June, on the river Dniester, against the F..... regiment of Riflemen; on the 24th of June again on the Gumin-Borzhimov front; at the end of June against the D..... infantry regiment, at the town of Krasnostav; on the 1 st of July near the town of Shavel against the P..... infantry regiment; on the 26th of July on the Sosno-Bialogrond front and on the 19th of May near the village of Rudnik unused apparatus with asphyxiating gas were found in the German trenches.

This gas used by the Germans is chiefly composed of chlorine and brome, which produce a deadly effect upon the respiratory organs and the blood vessels. Without protective measures against it, the great majority of those, who are poisoned by its fumes, never recover, and the few fortunate enough to survive remain disabled for a long time afterwards. In order to effect a wide diffusion of this gas, the enemy takes advantage of a favourable course of the wind and discharges the deleterious stuff from large metallic balloons under strong pressure in the direction of the Russian positions. Being much heavier than the atmosphere, this mephitic gas rolls over the ground in thick waves, 9 or 10 feet high, destroying the vegetation and every living creature in its path. The Germans follow immediately in its wake, and attack the Russian troops, who have thus been poisoned.

Another method, adopted by the Austrians and Germans, is the use of artillery projectiles filled with this gas, and which spread it on explosion. These projectiles have been used against the following Russian positions and troops—on the 10th of January 1915 against position S....., held by a regiment of Riflemen near Borzhimov; on the 25th of April against the P..... infantry regiment, on the Hungarian frontier, in the Carpathians; on the 29th of April against the K..... infantry regiment near the village of Skolia,

in the Carpathians; from the 4th till the 9th of May against the V.... infantry regiment; from the 15th till the 30th of May against the S.... regiment of infantry on the river San; on the 30th of May at Borzhimov; on the 24th of June against the D.... infantry regiment near Krasnostav; on the 4th of July on the front of the IX army and at the end of July on the Vladimir-Volinski-Krasnik front.

II.

Furthermore, it was recognized by the St Petersburg Declaration of 1868 as contrary to the laws of humanity to use weapons, which, while wounding the enemy, unnecessarily increase the sufferings of men hors de combat, or render their death inevitable.

Regardless of this, our enemy, when attacking at close quarters, pours burning and corrosive fluids over the Russian soldiers, for which purpose a special form of apparatus is used, consisting of metallic cylinders, filled under high pressure with a mixture of easily inflammable liquids, bituminous substances or corrosive acids. This kind of cylinder is fitted with a tap, which, when opened, sends forth a jet of flame or fluid 30 paces ahead. In using these fire-throwing cylinders, the jet, on issuing from the tube, ignites, develops an extremely high temperature, burns up everything which it encounters and converts living men into a carbonized mass. The effects of the use of acid are equally frightful. When it falls upon the body, this acid burns deeply through the clothes, the skin at once begins to smoke, the flesh falls away from the bones and the latter become carbonized. The men, attacked with these acids, generally expire under the most awful agonies. The suffering victims very rarely survive.

Amongst the papers of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry there is a copy of an order issued from the 2nd German Army, dated the 16th of October 1914 N° 32 and which contains detailed

instructions for the use of fire-ejecting apparatus. Amongst other particulars, it is stated in this order, that „fire dischargers are to be employed principally in fighting in streets or in houses, and they will be kept in places where the conflict begins, so as to be always ready for use“.

The following cases of the enemy's use of apparatus for throwing fire and acids have been established by the Extraordinary Commission and attested by reports from different units of the army, as well as by the protocols of medical officers, who have examined the victims.

On the 23rd of February 1915 a detachment of the S..... regiment, in attacking the German trenches near the village of Konopnitsi, had a burning, pitchy fluid poured over them, which severely injured the bodies and faces of the men. On the night of the 22nd of April, at the attack upon height N° „958“ of Makuvki, the men of our infantry division found over 100 charred remains of Russian soldiers, who had been subjected to the action of fire-throwers, and 8 apparatus were captured from the Austrians. Many private soldiers also received severe wounds from burning on that occasion. During the night of the 17th of May, in the Galician village of Dolina, fire-throwers were used against the I..... regiment, the men of which succeeded in seizing several apparatus from the enemy. On the 20th of May, during an attack at Przmysl, very bad burns were received by several men of the O..... regiment of infantry. In the same month of May several fire-dischargers were taken from the Germans on the river Bzura. At the village of Edvabno, on the 10th of February, several members of the P..... Life-Guard regiment suffered from burns, inflicted by means of sulphuric acid mixed with petroleum. On the 27th of February, when the enemy's trenches were taken at Przmysl, some of the men of the K..... regiment found 3 apparatus filled with acid. In the middle of March the Austrians used acid-throwing apparatus

near the village of Yablonka during the advance of our troops. On the 12th of May, near the village of Dolina, when the Austrian positions were attacked by the I.... regiment, several of the rank and file had acid poured over them, and a cossack had his cheek burnt through to the bone from which he soon died. On the 13th of June, near the village of Bobrik in Galicia, 4 privates of the V.... regiment of Riflemen were attacked with jets of a fluid, which caught fire on coming into contact with their clothes, and two of them were burnt to death. On the 24th of July some jars containing a corrosive fluid for destroying the eyesight were discovered in possession of a German officer and some soldiers, who were taken prisoners at Osovets. In addition to the special apparatus above mentioned, the enemy has resorted to the use of ordinary bottles, filled with acids for throwing at the Russian soldiers, as was proved at the battles on the river Ravka and near Lodzi in the winter of 1914. Finally, on the 9th of January some of the men of the I.... regiment found pots of acid, giving off a suffocating vapour, and which the Austrians had left behind them in their trenches, near the village of Lipna.



The copy of the order.

2-nd army.

Note 32.

Head Quarters.

Saint Quentin. 16-th October.

The proposed attack on the enemy in front of us will, for particular reasons, be resumed later on at an early date.

It is therefore of great interest, that the information acquired in the course of the battles at close quarters, which have recently taken place, should be summarized and communicated to all the

troops, so that when the attack is resumed, such information may be common knowledge of all the officers.

As far as concerns the infantry attack, the corps have no need of further explanation.

But as regards the employment of pioneers, there is good reason for calling attention to the following points:

Pioneers-general ideas.

.....

Attack on fortified positions.

.....

Means to be used by pioneers during engagements at close range.

.....

4. Apparatus for throwing fire and inflammable gas.

This means will be placed at the disposal of army corps as required by the commander in chief. The corps will at the same time be provided with trained men, who are absolutely indispensable for working these apparatus, and who will be reinforced by pioneers from field companies, selected for the purpose when they have received the necessary instruction.

.....

These flame-throwing apparatus are used by pioneers specially trained to the work. They resemble portable fire extinguishers and eject a fluid which immediately takes fire spontaneously.

The jets of flame have an effective range of 20 metres in length and breadth. They are immediately fatal and repel the enemy at a considerable distance by the great heat which they produce.

As they burn from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 minutes and may be interrupted at will, it is advisable to give out only short and isolated jets of fire, so as to attack several objects with one filling of the apparatus. These flame-throwers will be used principally for fighting in streets and houses and are to be kept ready at the point where the assault begins.



No 18.

The enemy's use of explosive bullets.

Trophim Arkhipov Krakhmalev, corporal in an infantry regiment, and Afanasi Vasiliev Poliakov, Ephim Alexeyev Sviazhin and Philip Stepanov Ovsianikov, private infantry coldiers, have been wounded with explosive bullets, as proved by medical examination.

Krakhmalev was wounded on the 15th of March 1915 in the Carpathians, Poliakov—on the 20th of May 1915 on the river San, Sviazhin—on the 20th of April 1915 on the Vistula river and Ovsianikov—on the 19th of April 1915 near Tarnov.

The Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry hereby certifies, that up to the present time it has investigated and substantiated cases of the wounding of Russian soldiers with explosive bullets altogether to the number of:

1873.

These figures, however, give but a very faint idea of the enemy's use of explosive bullets, as they comprise only the comparatively few cases in which the wounded victims have survived. An overwhelming percentage of the wounds, caused by this kind of bullet, prove fatal, and such cases do not come before the Commission, owing to the difficulty of registering them in the midst of active operations, but the military authorities have abundant information on the subject.

Our enemies began to use explosive bullets at all points along the fighting front at the very beginning of hostilities. In spite of their constant assurance, that they employ these bullets only and exclusively for the purpose of range finding, the fact of their syste-

matic use of them with the object of killing Russian officers and soldiers is strikingly corroborated by the subjoined „Protest“, which was drawn up by 16 Austrian officer-prisoners for despatch to the Ministry of War in Vienna. Several of these Austrian prisoners affixed their signatures to this document in confirmation of its contents and authenticity at the time when they were interrogated by Examining Magistrates, who first warned them of the penalties of committing perjury. This protest runs as follows „The Austrian „officers, who are prisoners here, have had Austrian cartridges „shown to them by the Russian Military Authorities, as these cartridges produce the same effects as the dum-dum. The wounds, „caused by these bullets, are frightful. In the name of humanity we „protest against the further use of them, and beg you to discontinue the use of these range finding cartridges“. (Case 94).

When questioned by the Examining Authorities, after having been admonished of the penalties of giving false evidence, several prisoner-privates of the Austro-Hungarian Army affirmed, that cartridges with explosive bullets were given out by their superiors exclusively for the purpose of shooting at Russian officers and generally at the leaders of the Russian troops. (Case 78).

Finally, the most convincing proof is available not only of the systematic use of explosive bullets, but of the use of enormous quantities of them, for whole boxes of cartridges, loaded with these bullets, for rifles and bandoliers full of them for machine guns are constantly being found at different places, occupied by the enemy's troops. For example, on the 16th of September, at the village of Lazenky, near the town of Nemirov, 10,000 explosive bullets were found, and from September till January over 31,000 such bullets were collected along the one front only of the 8th Russian Army. On the 8th of December, when the garrison of Pryzhmysl made a sortie, the Russian troops captured Austrian machine-guns, provided with cartridges containing explosive bullets. (Case 98).

. The Extraordinary Commission, moreover, has received information from the chiefs of the staffs of different military units to the effect, that at several places the enemy has kept up uninterrupted rifle and machine gun fire at our troops for whole days together entirely with explosive bullets.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

№ 13.



Рядовой полка
Александръ Андреевъ
ТЯСЦИНЪ.

№ 14.



Старшій урядникъ казачьяго полка
Иванъ Ефимовъ
ЗИНОВЬЕВЪ.

№ 15.



Подпоручикъ пѣхотнаго полка
АЛЕКСѢЙ НЕКЛЮКОВЪ.



№ 16.



Старшій унтеръ-офицеръ пѣхотнаго полка
АЛЕКСѢЙ СМЕРДОВЪ.



Аппаратъ для выбрасыванія воспламеняющей жидкости,
употребляемый германскими войсками.





Аппаратъ для выбрасыванія воспламеняющейся
жидкости, употребляемый австрійскими войсками.

На аппаратъ выдвлено:

377.

„K. u. K.“ Heeresverwaltung

Prob. 230 alt^{1r} Rhr 19¹²/₂15

Марка
съ
гербомъ.

Tara 12 kg. Inhalt 6 ltr



Германскій огнеметатель, надѣтый, по распоряженію Чрезвычайной
Слѣдственной Комиссіи, на русскаго солдата во время производства
экспертизы надъ означеннымъ аппаратомъ.



Рядовой пѣхотнаго полка
Афанасій Васильевъ
ПОЛЯКОВЪ.

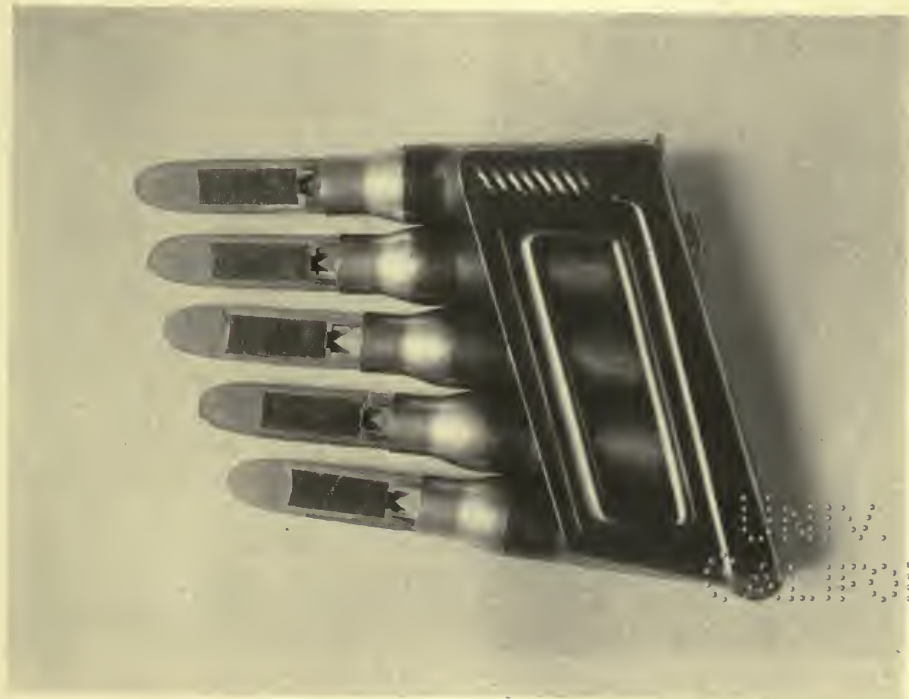


Ефрейторъ пѣхотнаго полка
Трофимъ Архиповъ
КРАХМАЛЕВЪ.

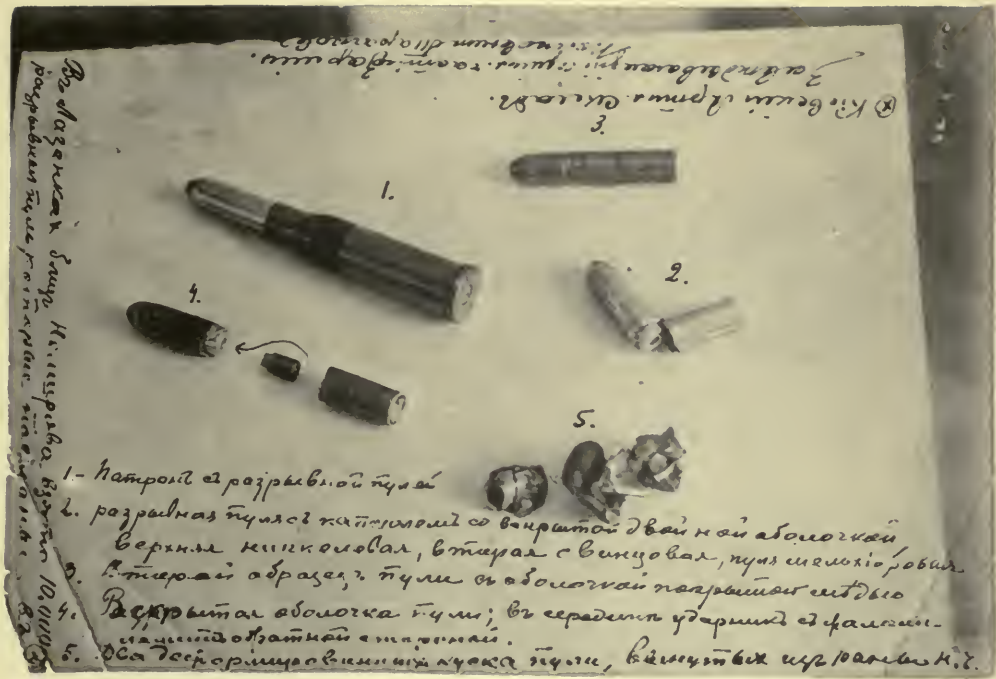
UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA



Рядовой пѣхотнаго полка
Ефимъ Алексѣевъ
СВІЯЖИНЪ.



Австрійскія разрывныя пули.



Австрийскія разрывныя пули.

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Рядовой пѣхотнаго полка
Филиппъ Степановъ
ОВСЯННИКОВЪ.

84 phx
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Gift of the
Russian Embassy

Sept. 19-26 Russia. —

Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry appointed by order of His
Majesty the Emperor of Russia.

The Extraordinary Commission sends out another account of its labours,
with a further record of atrocities committed by our foes.

May this publication serve as a mute tribute of admiration and
affection for our heroic martyrs, who have not forgotten their sense of duty,
and have refused to sully their honour by betraying their country to the
enemy.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry

German torture of Russian soldiers.

№ 19.

Early on the morning of July 21-st 1915 *) a private soldier named Michael Ananiev, of the regiment of riflemen, who was employed as a telephone operator, was on his way from Komarov's farm, some 12 miles from Warsaw, to the farmhouse of Debniak, having been sent there to the Commander of a telephone detachment, when he found a reel of telephone wire, which he picked up and took with him. While going through a wood he suddenly came upon a German reconnoitring party, consisting of an officer and 10 soldiers. The officer stopped Ananiev, and asked him who he was and whither he was going? Ananiev replied that he was a Russian soldier, and was going to the farm. Noticing that Ananiev had with him a reel of wire, the officer questioned him as to whether he was not in the telephone service, and requested the name of his regiment. Ananiev answered that he was a telephone operator of the 24-th Russian regiment. The German officer ordered his men to search the prisoner, and in turning out his pockets they found a booklet, of the kind carried by Russian soldiers, and which disclosed the fact that Ananiev belonged to quite a different regiment. For making this false statement the German officer struck Ananiev twice in the face, and demanded information as to the

*) All dates according to old style—13 days later than those of Western Europe.

number, composition and position of the Russian troops, threatening to cut off his nose and ears if he refused to give it. Ananiev, however, would not speak, whereupon, in obedience to the officer's orders, he was seized by four of the soldiers and thrown down on to the ground. A fifth soldier then pressed one knee into Ananiev's chest, while a sixth German made an incision with a sword bayonet in the prisoner's left ear, separating the upper part of it from the skull bone. After this, they placed their victim on his feet, and the officer again demanded particulars of the Russian troops, but as Ananiev still maintained silence, his torturers again threw him to the ground, and completely cut off the helix of his left ear. Ananiev fainted from the pain, and when he came to himself one of the German soldiers was ordered to conduct him to the German positions. On the road the German in charge of Ananiev sat down to rest, and taking advantage of the moment, Ananiev dealt the sitting German a blow on the head with the reel of wire. He then seized the disabled man's rifle, with the butt-end of which he gave him another blow, and then fled in the direction of the Russian troops. In the evening of the same day Ananiev fell in with one of our regiments.

On the 23-rd of July the senior surgeon of № 234 train, provided by the nobility of Cherneegov, examined Ananiev and found that the whole of the upper cartilaginous appendage, or helix, of his left ear had been cut away.

The foregoing statement is attested by the evidence of Ananiev, given on oath to V. D. Olishev, a member of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, and by a certificate from the abovementioned medical officer.

№ 20.

On the 21-st of May 1915, while Matthew Pozniakov, a private in the regiment and military servant to the regimental surgeon, was carrying his master's dinner from the village of Gochistok to the ambulance station, situated half a verst from

the advance positions, he was met near a wood by two unknown men in civilian attire, who accosted him in Russian, but with a Polish accent. When they learned that Pozniakov was carrying a dinner to the positions, they requested him to follow them, without offering any explanation for such an order, but Pozniakov refused. One of the two men then snatched a revolver from his own jacket pocket, and compelled Pozniakov to accompany them by pointing the muzzle at his breast. When they had gone about 200 paces into the thick of the wood, the two men halted, and one of them succeeded in throwing Pozniakov to the ground and then sat upon him. They both threatened to shoot him, or cut out his tongue, if he refused to answer their questions as to the number of Russian troops in the surrounding district, the location of separate detachments, and as to whether there were any militiamen in the immediate vicinity. Their questions were put to Pozniakov in Russian, but between themselves the men conversed in Polish. Pozniakov paid no heed to their threats, and refused to answer their questions. The elder stranger then ordered Pozniakov to put out his tongue, and when he refused to do so, the man seized him with one hand by the throat and squeezed it, while with the other hand he pressed his nose, and thus made Pozniakov open his mouth. At the same moment the other man forced his fingers into Pozniakov's cheeks with such violence that Pozniakov could not help opening his mouth wide, and protruding part of his tongue, which was immediately caught hold of by the elder man, who cut off the tip of it with a kinjal, drawn from underneath his jacket. Pozniakov instinctively clutched at the kinjal, but the younger stranger drew back his arm, and then with the help of his companion he twisted both Pozniakov's arms behind his back, and bound them tightly with a belt. They then tied Pozniakov's legs together, and left him hanging to a tree, head downwards. Pozniakov's throat filled with blood, and he was obliged to swallow a great quantity of it to prevent himself from choking. After great effort, he finally freed, first his hands, and then his feet. Being afraid of another meeting with his torturers, Pozniakov went into the depth of the forest, and after some time he was found there by Russian Red Cross assistants.

Pozniakov states that the kinjal, or dagger, with which the strangers cut off the tip of his tongue, was a little more than a foot long; it had a black handle and a black leather sheath. He noticed that the elder man had two bags suspended from his belt, and judging by the outline of their contents visible on the outside, they must have held round objects about the size of a man's fist, and which appeared to Pozniakov to be hand grenades.

All the foregoing particulars were vouched for by Pozniakov on oath, when he was interrogated by order of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry by the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Moscow.

A combined judicial and medical examination of Pozniakov established the fact that his tongue had been shortened, and it was noticed that the remaining end of it showed notches of an irregular, triangular form. The movement of the tongue was restricted and the speech indistinct. The medical experts arrived at the conclusion that his tongue had been cut twice with a sharp instrument.

No 21.

In August 1915, on the Bielostock fighting front, a gunner of the Artillery Brigade, named Semen Pilyugin, remained behind to execute a special order of his superiors, and thus lost touch with his detachment. In trying to rejoin it the next evening, he quitted the forest for the fields, sat down against a haystack and began to smoke. All at once he was surprised by 3 Germans, who seized his arms, threw something over his head, and led him away with them. For about two hours he was being conducted by the Germans to their trenches, and on arriving there one of them, who was an officer, began to question him in broken Russian. He wanted to know if the Russians had many troops and much ammunition, how their troops were distributed, and whether it had not been rumoured that the Emperor intended

to sue for peace. These inquiries were accompanied by a warning that Pilyugin was expected to speak the truth, and that if he did so he would be rewarded with lots of gold. Pilyugin, however, declared that no Russian soldier would break his oath by telling the truth in such matters, that we had plenty of troops and ammunition, and that the Emperor was not thinking of peace, but only of thrashing the enemy. This made the German very angry, and he struck Pilyugin on the cheek, saying that his tongue was too long and would have to be shortened. At the same time he asked if the Russians had taken their boys and old men for soldiers. Pilyugin replied:—„send 25 of your army corps into Russia and it will take them more than 25 years to count all the troops that we've got“.

At this retort the German completely lost his temper. He said something in German to one of his soldiers, who grasped Pilyugin by the forehead, and held the Russian's head tight against his, the German's body, whilst another soldier forced open Pilyugin's mouth with a stick. The officer then pulled out as much as he could of Pilyugin's tongue with some kind of pinchers, and one of the German soldiers cut off the tip of it with a pocket knife. After this, they led Pilyugin away, remarking that he would be taken before a General and have to undergo more mutilation. On the road one of the Germans stumbled and fell. Pilyugin profited by the mishap to leap over the fallen man and take to his heels. Although the men of the escort ran after him and opened fire, Pilyugin managed to escape, and the next evening he rejoined the Russian troops.

The foregoing statement is vouched for by Pilyugin's evidence, given upon oath, when examined by a member of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. A combined judicial and medical examination also established the fact that Pilyugin's tongue had been severed at the point of attachment to the frenum linguae, or the ligament joined to the tongue's under surface, and that his speech had consequently become difficult and unintelligible.

№ 25.

A private of the regiment of riflemen, named Vasili Ivanov Anpilogov, acting as an officer's servant, was sent to fetch forage from a military transport detachment, standing a few versts off from the regiment, near the town of Sokal.

While passing near the border of a forest Anpilogov came up with an unknown man wearing a jacket and grey coloured kepi. The stranger fell in with Anpilogov, and asked him in very good Russian where he was going, and to which regiment he belonged.

During the conversation a second stranger emerged from the wood and said something in a foreign language to the first man. He then ran up behind, pulled off the overcoat, which hung loosely on Anpilogov's shoulders, and dragged the latter's shirt over his head. Anpilogov would have torn himself away and fled, but he was knocked down by a violent blow on the head from one of the strangers with something very hard, and then dragged into the thick of the forest.

After they had gone some distance, the strangers, without freeing Anpilogov's head from under his shirt, began to ask him questions about the number, and positions of the Russian troops, but Anpilogov answered everything by saying he did not know. They then enquired if he had any money, and Anpilogov replied that in his trouser's pocket there were 47 roubles, whereupon they pulled off Anpilogov's boots and trousers, and one of them hit him so hard with a boot in the chest that it pained him to breathe. Directly afterwards one of the men struck him with something on the left foot causing the whole foot to become inflamed.

As Anpilogov expressed it, his foot was „all on fire“. The two strangers then threw Anpilogov into a ditch with water at the bottom, and went off, taking with them his boots, overcoat and trousers.

After lying some time, and being certain that he was quite alone, Anpilogov disengaged his head from the shirt, got out of the ditch, and made for the open country.

He was suffering much pain in the chest, and felt that he was wounded in the foot. After prolonged effort, Anpilogov succeeded in quitting the forest and getting on to the roadway, where he was soon picked up by a couple of Cossacks, and taken to the nearest village, and thence to a field hospital. Here he was bandaged up, and as the toes of his left foot had been half cut off, they had to be completely amputated.

Anpilogov has sworn to the truth of the above statement before an Examining magistrate of the District Court of Kursk, who examined him by order of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. The facts have also been authenticated by a combined judicial and medical examination, and by photographs.

No 26.

On the 7th of July 1915, near the town of Mitau, Kornie Petrov Lysak, a soldier of the infantry regiment, while reconnoitring in a neighbouring forest, was taken prisoner by a German cavalry patrol. His captors took him to the German lines and handed him over to a German officer and two soldiers, who were disguised in the uniforms of Russian infantrymen. The officer wrote down Lysak's name, and ordered the soldiers to take him away. After they had escorted him about 150 yards from the line of trenches, the Germans told him to sit down on the ground, and then one of them began to ply him with questions as to the number and positions of the Russian troops. Lysak was loth to answer these enquiries, and simply explained that he had only joined his regiment just before he lost his way in the forest, and therefore he had no information to give. Upon this, the second German standing behind him gave Lysak such a violent thrust in the back with the butt-end of a rifle, that it made the blood gush from his throat. Then the same German seized hold of Lysak's left ear, and began cutting through it slowly with a kinjal, taken out

of the top of one of his boots. Three times this German carved into Lysak's ear, with the object of extorting from him the desired particulars, but Lysak continued to profess ignorance on the subject. Having thus failed to extract from him what they wanted to know, they led Lysak away to their transport detachment, and left him there without any medical assistance, although his mutilated ear was dangling from its place like a piece of rag. Three days afterwards Lysak made good his escape, and reached the positions of the Russian troops.

This statement is authenticated by the evidence of Lysak, given before an Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Kharkov, and by a joint medical and judicial examination.

A Russian prisoner poisoned by Germans.

In the middle of February 1915 a Russian reconnoitring detachment, consisting of an officer and three privates, attempted to cross the river Nieman on the ice, opposite the village of Dimisevich, in the district of Augustovo, which was then occupied by the Germans, but the enemy's fire put all the three soldiers hors de combat, and wounded their officer. The Germans wanted to bring in the wounded officer, and sent a German soldier with several of the villagers to fetch him. While he was being carried from the river the German soldier in charge of the party appropriated the wounded man's watch, purse and boots. They took him to the house of a peasant named Stanislav Kravchik, which was in the occupation of German officers and soldiers. Amongst them was a man of officer's rank, with a red cross badge on his arm, who appeared to be a doctor. In spite of the suffering and groans of the wounded Russian, the Germans offered him no assistance. He was simply dumped down upon the floor on a litter of straw, and the Germans in the room began to talk and laugh amongst themselves, as if highly pleased at the prisoner's suffering. Then the doctor came

up and began to drop some kind of white powder into the wounded Russian's mouth. The patient attempted to resist, and tried with his arms and legs to push the doctor away, but one of the German soldiers sitting on a chair put his feet on the wounded Russian's arms, and other soldiers sat down on his legs, so that the unfortunate officer was completely overpowered. The German doctor was thus enabled to make him swallow the powder, with the result that in about 20 minutes the victim expired in frightful agony. The Germans afterwards threw the dead body out against the fence. The next day the village was entered by the Russian troops, who recovered the corpse, and buried it on the other side of the Nieman.

The preceding facts are vouched for by the evidence of Stanislav Kravchik and Anne Yadeshko, who were interrogated by order of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, and were warned that they would be required to confirm their statements upon oath, by an Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Suvalki.

Murder and torture of the Roman Catholic priests Pesis and Strimovich.

On the 31st of July 1915, when a German patrol took possession of the village of Slovik in the commune of Shilgal, district of Vladislavov, 5 German cavalymen entered the yard of the house belonging to the parish priest, Johann Strimovich, who had concealed himself, together with several other persons, in the cellar. The Germans were unable to discover the whereabouts of Strimovich from enquiries of his coachman, Anton Shvelkis, so they seized the priest's horse, and went away with it.

When all was quiet Strimovich went to see his vicar, the priest Pesis, in order to consult with him as to future action.

He had only just entered his colleague's lodging, when two German troopers galloped up to the house, smashed the windows,

and proceeded to beat the servants and also several workmen, who were standing near.

They next fired into the lodging of Pesis, after which they broke into the apartment, pointed their rifles at the breasts of Pesis and Strimovich, and demanded who had fired from the lodging on the Germans.

When Strimovich assured them that no fire-arms had been discharged from that house, the Germans cursed and swore, and threatened to shoot the two priests. Several times they placed them up against the wall, took aim with their rifles, struck them with their fists, and pushed them about.

From the talk between these two German soldiers, Strimovich gathered that he and Pesis were suspected of having given information to the Russians of the positions of the German patrols.

Strimovich further ascertained from their conversation that one of the Germans, with reddish hair and a pock-marked face, and who was rather intoxicated, was called „Herman“ and the other,—a fair-haired man,—„Max“.

Subsequently Strimovich learned from our men that these German soldiers belonged to the 3rd uhlan regiment of Thorn.

„Herman“ drove Strimovich out into the yard, and continued to demand who had fired shots from the house. Here he snatched from the button hole of the priest's garment a silver watch with the monogram K. J. S. and a gold chain, worth altogether about 45 roubles.

When Strimovich declared that no shots had been fired from his colleague's house „Herman“ drew his sword, intending to strike Strimovich over the head with it, but the priest warded off the blow. The half-drunken „Herman“ then grasped his rifle, but at this moment Strimovich gave him an energetic push and tried to escape.

After running a certain distance, without noticing the shots fired after him by „Herman“, the exhausted priest at last stopped and held up his arms in token of surrender. „Herman“ ran up to him, struck him in the neck with the butt-end of his rifle, and drove him back to the lodging of Pesis. There Strimovich found Pesis standing near the window with his arms raised, and „Max“

in front of him, holding his rifle at the slope. Strimovich was placed by the side of Pesis, and the two soldiers first used abusive language towards them. Then „Herman“ rushed at Pesis, and attacked him with his fists. When Pesis raised his arms in self defence, „Herman“ put the muzzle of his rifle to the breast of the priest, and with the words—„your neighbours say you are wicked Russian popes“, he pulled the trigger, and Pesis fell down dead.

After this „Herman“ rummaged in the drawers of the writing table, opened, with the help of „Max“, a linen-press, and took out of it a dozen pocket handkerchiefs, which he said he would requisition as a „souvenir of Russia“.

After „Herman“ and „Max“ had inspected all parts of the lodging, they gave the stolen handkerchiefs, a box of cigarettes, writing paper and envelopes to Strimovich to carry, and ordered him to follow them, as he would have to go to Prussia as a prisoner of war.

On the road „Herman“ and „Max“ stopped at a beer shop kept by Vladislav Palchinsky, and while they were there they made Strimovich stand up against the wall with his arms raised.

At the request, however, of Palchinsky's wife, „Herman“ and „Max“ let Strimovich go.

Strimovich felt very tired and exhausted from all the excitement, which he had undergone, and on passing near a well he staggered up against it for support. Then the German cavalymen seized him again, and „Herman“ levelled his rifle at him ready to fire, but Strimovich, mustering up all his remaining strength, caught hold of the barrel and averted the shot.

Strimovich afterwards learned from his parishoners that on July the 31st the Germans were in search of the local district constable, who had managed to hide himself, and that Pesis, owing to his grey hair, had been taken for the incumbent of the church, and was murdered by mistake for Strimovich.

Strimovich was interrogated as a complainant and witness by the Examining Magistrate of the 1st ward of the Kainsk district of the Circuit Court of Tomsk. While confirming the aforesaid facts, Strimovich explained inter alia, that in all probability the murderous treatment of Pesis and himself by the Germans at Slovik

was due to instigation on the part of the German colonists of the parish, who were ill-disposed towards him on account of his disapproval of their grasping acquisition of land from the native Lithuanians through the assistance of the Länder bank. Strimovich had openly expressed his dissatisfaction at this and had twice pointed out the deplorable consequences to Lieutenant-Colonel Gorielov, an official for special missions attached to the Governor of Suvalki.

By order of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, a soldier of the Artillery Brigade, named Berko Rogozin, was interrogated by the Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Kharkov, and he deposed that at the end of December 1914, or the beginning of January 1915, when his regiment was stationed at Darheim in East Prussia, he was sent out with 5 other men to reconnoitre. During the expedition they lost their way and found themselves in a hollow, near a small German detachment, and consequently they were forced to take cover and lie low. From this position they observed an unknown Russian soldier, mounted, who had also evidently lost his way and he rode straight into the enemy's camp. He was at once surrounded by about 8 Germans, who pulled him off his horse, stripped him perfectly naked and dragged him to a pile of burning wood, which they had kindled near by. Here they put him right on to the top of the fire, and encircled him with their rifles, so that he could not escape.

When Rogozin and his comrades saw this, and being too few to offer the unfortunate man any assistance, they beat a hasty retreat without being observed.

No 22.

Use of explosive bullets.

A non-commissioned officer of infantry named Andreyev Shishelnitsky and infantry privates:—Ivan Prokofiev Shelemin, Andrew Semenov Gubenko and Akhundian Bakhtiarov Davlianov were woun-

ded with explosive bullets, as proved by the investigations of the Commission. Shishelnitsky was thus wounded on the 24th July 1915 near Liublin; Shelemin on the 22nd October 1914, at a place unknown to him; Gubenko and Davlianov in Galicia, the first on May 26th 1915, and the latter on July 7th 1915.

The total number of verified cases of wounding with explosive bullets now exceeds—

3000.



Abuse of the white flag.

In the heat of battle, during rifle and artillery firing, or in the midst of a bayonet attack, the Austro-Hungarian and German troops, when they see the tide of victory turning against them, very often have recourse to the stratagem of waving white flags and throwing down their arms as signs of submission. Sometimes they supplement this action by holding up their hands and shouting, „we surrender, take us prisoners!“ On such occasions Russian troops are naturally constrained to cease firing by feelings of compassion for an unarmed enemy. They then peacefully approach the surrendering troops of the foe, but the latter suddenly sink to the ground, recover their rifles, and pour a volley into our soldiers, or else a murderous fire is opened upon them by other enemy troops, concealed behind those, who have raised the white flag.

Such abuses of the white flag, as may be seen from accounts given by German prisoners of the landsturm, have been reduced by the enemy to a regular system, and are recommended by his military authorities as strategical manoeuvres to be used when the chances of success are on the side of their adversary. For this purpose, according to the statements of prisoners, each non-commissioned officer carries with him a white flag (Case of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry № 56).

Similar misuse of the white flag and other signals of surrender have been authenticated by the Extraordinary Commission in the following cases:—

On the 10th of August 1914, 12 miles from Galich, near the river Dniester, in a battle between mixed Austro-German troops and the infantry regiment.

On the 14th of August 1914, close to Krasnostav, in an engagement of Austrian troops with the regiment of riflemen.

On the 16th of August 1914, on the river Gnili Lip, in Galicia, in an engagement of Austrian troops with two of our . . . , regiments of infantry.

On the 16th of August 1914, on the highway near Indenburg, in an encounter of German cavalry and heavy artillery with the infantry regiment, when a German officer, disguised in the uniform of a Russian military doctor, waved a white flag, and begged us in Russian not to fire.

On the 16th of August 1914, 17 miles from the town of Liublin, in an attack on the Austrian positions by the regiment.

On the 17th of August, near the village of Kamenka, close to Lemberg, in an engagement between Austrian troops and the regiment of.

On the 22nd of August 1914, near Dzibulki in Galicia, in an engagement between Austrian troops and the infantry regiment of.

On the 26 of August beyond Lemberg, in a battle between Austrian troops and the infantry regiment of.

In addition to these, other abuses of the white flag took place during the month of August in the region of the Augustov forests, in fighting between German troops and the regiment of riflemen.

On the 1st of September 1914 near Piaski, in the province of Liublin, in an engagement of Austrian troops with the regiment.

On the 21st of September 1914, between Opatov and Sandomir, in an engagement between combined Austro-German troops and the regiment.

There were also other instances of abuse of the white flag in the month of September near Przemyśl, when our troops were reconnoitring the Austrian positions.

On the 4th of October 1914, near Przemyśl, in an engagement between Austrian troops and the regiment of.

On the 5th October 1914, near Mostsiski in Galicia, during an attack made by the regiment of on the Austrian positions.

On the 8th of October 1914, a mile and a half from Rudnik, on the river San, in an engagement between Austrians and the regiment of.

Besides these, there were other cases of misuse of the white flag in October 1914 near Rava-Russka, during an attack on the Austrian positions by the regiment.

On the 5th of November 1914, near the village of Kotolits, in a battle between combined Austro—German troops and the . . . , infantry regiment.

On the 8th November 1914, on the Hungarian frontier, in a fight between Austrians and the infantry regiment.

On the 10th of December 1914, beyond the town of Tarnov, in an encounter of Austrian troops with the infantry regiment.

In the middle of January 1915, at Voli Shidlovski, in an engagement between Germans and the regiment.

In the month of February 1915, between Tarnov and the village of Plesni, during an engagement of Austrians with the infantry regiment.

On the 3rd of March 1915, near the village of Tolmach, in an engagement between Austrians and the regiment of.

On the 7th of March 1915, in the Carpathians, at the village of Lupkovo, in an engagement of Austrian troops (under command of German officers) with the regiment.

On the 19th of March 1915, at the village of Turzik, beyond the town of Yaroslav, in an encounter of Austrian troops with the infantry regiment of.

On the 25th of April 1915, near the station and village of Krasno in Galicia, during a fight between Austrians and the infantry regiment of.

On the 25th of April 1915, near the town of Rezheshov, in fighting between German troops and the infantry regiments of. . . .

On the 26th April 1915, near the town of Kolomyia in an engagement of combined Austro-German troops with the infantry regiment of.

On April 27th 1915, seven miles from Krasno in Galicia, in an engagement of Austrians with the infantry regiment of.

On May 5th 1915, near Yaroslav, in an engagement between Germans and the regiment.

On May 6th 1915, near Yaroslav, in an engagement between Germans and the regiment.

On the 7th May 1915, beyond Lemberg, in an engagement between Austrians and the : regiment. .

On May 11th 1915, on the banks of the river San, in an engagement between mixed Austro-German troops and the battalion.

On May 15th 1915, 2½ miles from the town of Stri, in an engagement of mixed Austro-German troops with the regiment of riflemen.

On May 25th 1915, in Galicia, 2½ miles from Siniava, in an engagement of Austrians with the infantry regiment of.

On May 26th 1915, 40 miles from the river San, in an engagement between combined Austro-German troops and the infantry regiment of

On May 27th 1915, near Przemyśl, in an engagement of Austrians with the infantry regiment of

On May 28th 1915, in Galicia, 27 miles west of Tarnov, in an engagement of Austrians with the infantry regiment of

In addition to these, there was an abuse of the white flag in the month of May 1915, 7 miles north of Przemyśl, in an engagement between Germans and the infantry regiment of

On the 1st of June 1915, near Krakovets, 27 miles from Przemyśl, in an engagement between Austrians and the regiment of

On the 2nd of June 1915, in the Carpathians, in an engagement between Austrians and the regiment.

On the 6th of June 1915, near the river San, in an encounter between German scouts and scouts of the infantry regiment of

On the 8th of June 1915, 14 miles from the settlement of Zalotoi Potok, in an engagement between combined Austro-Germans and the regiment.

On the 19th of June 1915, in Galicia, 20 miles from the town of Zamosti, in an engagement of German toops with the infantry regiment of

The foregoing facts have been authenticated by victims or eye-witnesses, who have been questioned by Examining Magistrates, pursuant to orders from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, with premonition of the criminal responsibility of committing perjury.

Apart from the facts denoting instances of abuse and deception praction practised by the enemy, which have already been inquired into, the Extraordinary Commission has received communications from various sources of 125 more cases of infraction and abuse of the rules of war in this respect.

Austrian treatment of Russian prisoners.

In September 1914 a Greek subject of Odessa, named Pantazi Pantazopulo, being engaged, after the Russians had entered Galicia, in the sale of various kinds of goods, was arrested by the inhabitants of a village, through which he was passing, not far from Koloma, together with two drivers and a companion. The villagers beat Pantazopulo and his fellow-travellers almost senseless, and then delivered them over to the nearest detachment of Austrian soldiers, who, after kicking and knocking them about with the butt-ends of their rifles, brought them up before an Austrian officer.

This officer ordered their persons and property to be searched, and in spite of assurances that they were merely peaceful civilians, he declared that they would have to be taken to his superiors as suspected spies. He accordingly sent them in the charge of soldiers to the nearest town. On the way Pantazopulo recovered somewhat his senses, and made the discovery that he had been robbed of over 5000 roubles in money, two gold rings, a gold watch and several other articles of less value. In the town the prisoners were lodged in prison in separate cells. In the evening on the day of their arrival Pantazopulo was visited in his cell by a military official, who put a number of questions as to the strength of the Russian troops in the surrounding districts, and when Pantozopulo professed ignorance the Austrian belaboured him with his fists and kicked him about to such an extent that he knocked out 5 of the prisoner's teeth.

The next day the prisoners were sent handcuffed and under guard to Bistritz, and along the road the Hungarians hit them, threw stones at them, and spat in their faces.

At Bistritz they were kept several days in terror of a Court Martial, and then they were despatched, with various stoppages, to Kolozsvar and Josephstadt in Drozendorf. At Josephsfadt Pantazopulo witnessed the murder of a Russian soldier prisoner, whose bowels were ripped open by a drunken Austrian soldier with his bayonet, without any cause or reason.

At Drozendorf there were about 700—800 prisoners, who were peaceful civilians of various nationalities. They were all lodged in a cold, unheated barn, and slept partly on the bare floor and partly on straw. The food was extremely insufficient. Each person received per day only a quarter of a pound of bread and that was made out of maize flour. In May 1915 Pantazopulo was transferred to Steinklam, where some 5000—6000 more peaceful civilians were kept prisoners, and there the nourishment was worse, many of the prisoners having died of starvation. Amongst the prisoners were several priests of the Eastern Orthodox Church from Bessarabia and Bukovina, and the Austrians shaved their heads and compelled them to perform the very dirtiest work, such, for instance, as the cleaning out of closets, which they had to do even on holidays.

In July, at the solicitation of the Greek Minister, Pantazopulo received permission to leave Austria and return to Odessa, where he related the above facts under examination by an Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Odessa, pursuant to orders from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

No 23.

Cossack prisoners and a veterinary surgeon shot by Austrians.

On the morning of the 12th of August 1914, a Cossack regiment entered the village of Monastuzhisk in Galicia, and left its transport wagons there, while the regiment continued to advance. Soon, however, the Austrians began to bombard the village from under cover of the neighbouring forest, and at the same time the enemy appeared on the roofs of several of the houses and opened fire from machine guns on to the transports. The soldiers of the transport-train succeeded in making their escape, but the regimental veterinary surgeon, Golikov, and the regimental assistant surgeon with a soldier servant, a Cossack named Stephen Krigin, were taken prisoners. The Austrians deprived the prisoners of their weapons, and led them away until they were soon joined by 3 more Cossacks and an assistant surgeon of the Labinsky regiment, who had all been captured in another place. They were all tied together in couples, and thus driven along until evening, without either victuals or drink. When it began to grow dark the soldiers of the escort ordered the prisoners to leave the roadway, and then they fired a volley at them from a distance of about 35 feet. All the prisoners fell to the ground. The Austrians thereupon searched them, took away everything of any value, and after firing several

revolver shots at their prostrate bodies, marched away. Krigin, who was wounded in the forehead, thigh and left shoulder, heard loud groaning from the surgeon Golikov, who was begging for water, or to be killed outright. Krigin was crawling up to give him some help, when he heard the sound of approaching cavalry and therefore lay low and pretended to be dead. Five Austrian hussars cantered up, and each of them in turn rode over Golikov, and then galloped off. After this, Krigin called to his comrades but no one answered. Convinced, therefore, that they were all dead, he crawled towards the Russian troops. On the way he had to swim across a river, and was several times obliged to hide in woods, or amongst the Indian corn away from the passing of the enemy's transport troops. At last, in the evening, he met a Russian patrol, who helped him to reach his regiment.

The foregoing is authenticated by the evidence of the said Krigin, given in the presence of an Examining Magistrate of the District Court of Ekaterinodar, pursuant to instructions from the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. The deponent was warned that he would be required to affirm the truth of his statement upon oath.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.



Рядовой стрѣлковаго полка

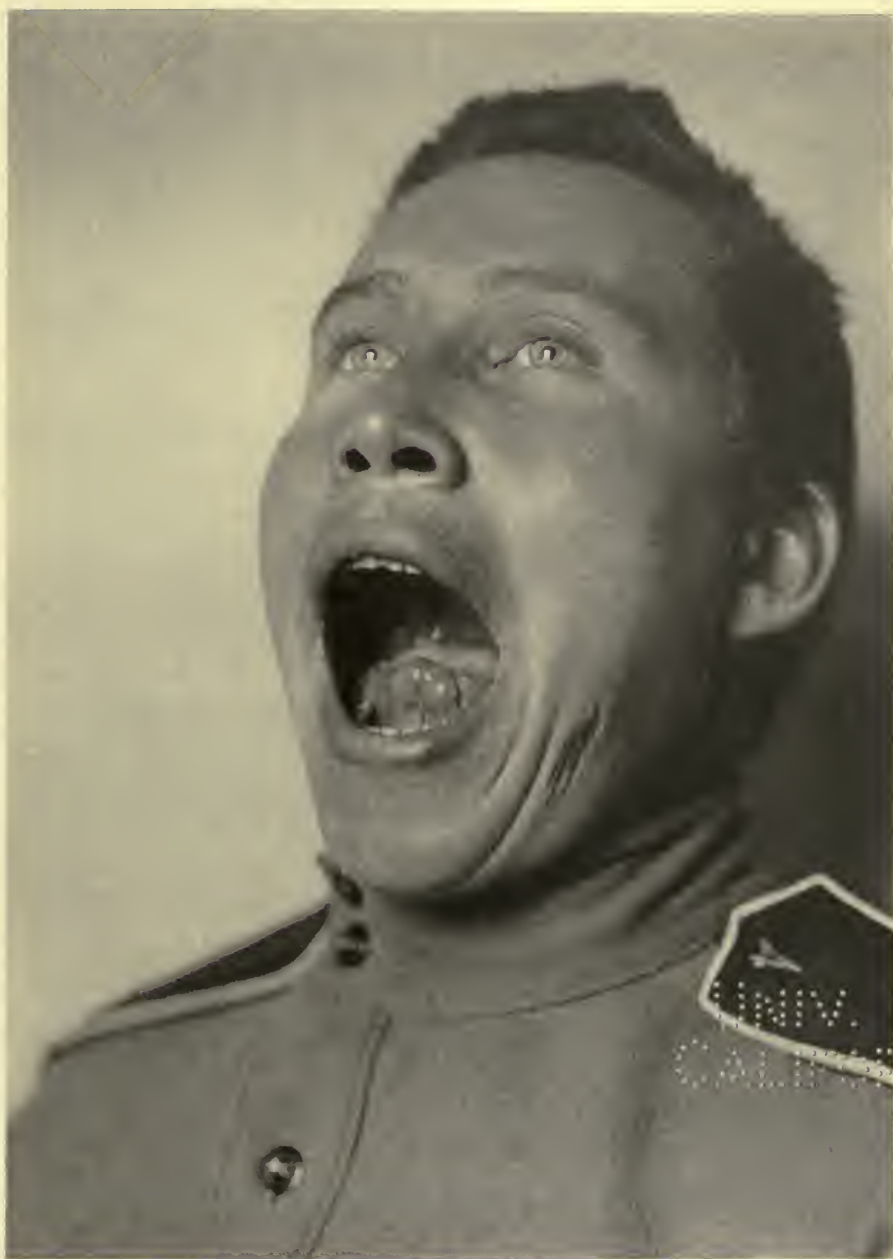
МИХАИЛЪ АНАНЬЕВЪ.

Chasseur du régiment

MICHEL ANANIEF.

Private of the riflemen regiment

MICHAEL ANANIEF.



Рядовой стрѣлковаго полка
МАТВѢЙ ПОЗНЯКОВЪ.

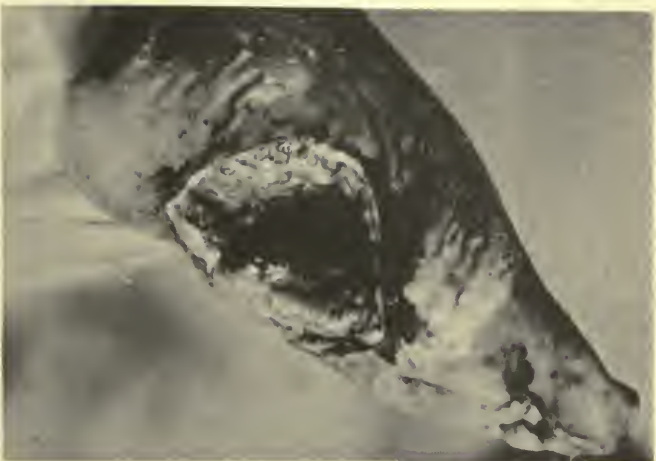
Chasseur du régiment
MATTHIEU POSNIAKOFF.

Private of the riflemen regiment
MATTHEW POSNIAKOF.



Канониръ бригады
СЕМЕНЪ ПИЛЮГИНЪ.

Le canonnier de la brigade Cannoneer of the brigade
SIMÉON PILUGINE. SEMEN PILUGINE.



Рядовой пѣхотнаго полка
АХУНДЬЯНЪ ДАВЛЯРОВЪ.
Le soldat du régiment d'infanterie
AHUNDIAN DAVLIAROFF.
Private of the infantry regiment
AHUNDIAN DAVLIAROF.



Рядовой пѣхотнаго полка
ВАСИЛІЙ БРУМА.
Le soldat du régiment d'infanterie
BASILE BROUMA.
Private of the infantry regiment
BASIL BROUMA.



Рядовой пѣхотнаго полка

ИВАНЪ ШЕЛЕМИНЪ.

Le soldat du régiment d'infanterie

JEAN CHELEMIN.

Private of the infantry regiment

JOHN SHELEMIN.



Рядовой стрѣльцоваго полка

АНДРЕЙ ГУБЕНКО.

Le soldat du régiment des chasseurs

ANDRÉ GOUBENKO.

Private of the riflemen regiment

ANDREW GOUBENKO.

№ 23.



Казакъ

СТЕФАНЪ КРЫГИНЪ.

Le cosaque

ETIENNE KRYGUINE.

Cossack

STEPHEN KRIGIN.

№ 24.



Рядовой пѣхотнаго полка
НИКОЛАЙ ДОРОЖКО.

Очевидецъ сожженія германцами сарая, въ которомъ были размѣщены раненые русскіе пѣхотные.
(3-й выпускъ трудовъ Комиссiи.)

Le soldat du régiment d'infanterie

NICOLAS DOROJKO.

Témoïn oculaire du feu mis par les Allemands au hangar, dans lequel se trouvaient des blessés russes.
(Fascicule 3 des travaux de la Commission.)

Private of the infantry regiment

NICHOLAS DOROJKO.

Witness of setting on fire by the Germans to a cartshed in which were settled russian wounded men.
(3-rd issue of the labors of the Commission.)



Рядовой стрѣлковаго полка
ВАСИЛІЙ АНПИЛГОВЪ.

Soldat du régiment des chasseurs Private of the riflemen regiment
BASILE AMPILOGOFF. BASIL ANPILOGOV.





OF
RUSA



Рядовой полка
КОРНѢЙ ЛЫСАКЪ.

Soldat du régiment Private of the regiment
CORNEILLE LYSSAC. KORNIIEY LYSSAK.

La Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête, pour raisons faciles à concevoir, publie les premières pages du nouveau fascicule sans donner de portraits, ni mentionner de noms.

Les dossiers de la Commission concernant les malheureuses dont il est question portent les numéros d'ordre 27 et 14.

C'est là que sont consignés les témoignages détaillés, donnés, sous la foi du serment, par les femmes victimes des sévices et les pièces médicales certifiant leurs déclarations.

Viol d'une soeur de charité.

Une soeur de charité, jeune fille de dix-sept ans, élève de 6-me classe d'un lycée de jeunes filles, fut, vers le 20 avril 1915, faite prisonnière par les troupes austro-allemandes, à la station de Radzivilischky, alors que, dans un train militaire, elle partait en congé.

Malgré ses affirmations qu'elle, X., était soeur de charité; quoiqu'elle, X., portât le costume réglementaire des soeurs de charité et eût au bras le brassard de la Croix-Rouge, les officiers austro-allemands la mirent en état d'arrestation, l'envoyèrent dans la propriété de Boubio, à 20 verstes de la station de Radzivilischky, où elle fut enfermée dans un hangar vide et laissée trois jours sans nourriture.

Le quatrième jour, des officiers entrèrent dans le hangar où X. se trouvait et la sommèrent de leur fournir des indications sur la disposition des troupes russes, après quoi ils la frappèrent du plat de leurs sabres et lui enfoncèrent des aiguilles dans le

corps. Ce même jour, X. fut transférée dans la 3-me ligne des tranchées allemandes et reléguée dans un abri d'officiers allemands, dont plusieurs, durant une semaine et demie, pratiquèrent de force sur elle, à maintes reprises, l'acte sexuel, laissant X., pour la nuit, dépouillée de tout vêtement, sous la surveillance d'une sentinelle spéciale.

X. réussit à s'évader des tranchées allemandes, et, grâce à l'aide que lui prêtèrent des paysans lithuaniens, à gagner, presque sans connaissance, les lignes russes, où lui furent donnés les premiers soins médicaux, car on s'aperçut qu'elle avait contracté une péritonite et une inflammation de l'enveloppe de la matrice. L'examen auquel X. fut soumise constata qu'elle portait des ecchymoses sanguinolentes dans les régions de l'épaule, de la cuisse et du tibia.

Viol de la demoiselle X.

La demoiselle X., âgée de 18 ans, lors de l'occupation par les troupes allemandes, au début de la guerre, de la ville de Kalysch, fut arrêtée et emmenée sur la place, où on l'attacha à un arbre, après lui avoir signifié qu'elle serait passée par les armes. Sur cette même place étaient rangés d'autres habitants de la ville, destinés, eux aussi, à être fusillés. Il y avait parmi eux un étudiant N. Davydoff que la jeune fille connaissait. Des soldats allemands, sous les yeux de X., frappèrent Davydoff de leurs baïonnettes, lui arrachèrent les cheveux sur la tête, puis, le fusillèrent. Cette scène de meurtre bouleversa tant Mademoiselle X., qu'elle perdit connaissance. Elle revint à elle dans un local occupé par des officiers allemands. Ici, l'un d'eux, dès

qu'elle eut repris ses sens, se livra de force sur elle à l'acte sexuel et la déflora. Plusieurs jours de suite X. resta sequestrée en ledit local, où elle fut violée, soit par l'officier allemand qui l'avait déflorée, soit par deux des camarades de celui-ci qui, pour l'obliger à se livrer à eux, la menaçaient de la tuer à coups de sabre, si elle résistait. Ces mêmes officiers disaient alors à X. que „*les Allemands cherchaient déjà un moyen de guerroyer avec les Russes qui, sans dépenser de balles, leur rendrait possible la destruction de leurs adversaires, grâce à l'empoisonnement par les gaz*“.

X. fut libérée par les troupes russes. Il a été établi par un examen médico-légal pratiqué le 4 juin 1915 que, X. avait été privée de sa virginité et qu'on remarque en elle un procès inflammatoire très prononcé des parties sexuelles.

Meurtre des blessés.

Le 19 avril 1915, lors de la retraite opérée par le régiment qui quittait ses positions, situées près du village de Bannitzky, pour occuper un monticule voisin, les troupes ennemies, se ruant sur les tranchées abandonnées, y achevèrent tous nos blessés, ainsi que les artilleurs blessés, restés auprès de deux pièces qui n'avaient pu être enlevées. D'après les renseignements fournis par Théodore Tchikourof, soldat au régiment qui, du haut du monticule, vit achever les blessés, les troupes ennemies qui s'étaient saisies des tranchées étaient des Allemands, revêtus d'uniformes autrichiens.

Les circonstances ci-dessus relatées ont été confirmées par les déclarations de Tchikourof, interrogé en qualité de témoin par le juge d'instruction du 6-e arrondissement de la ville de Kharkof.

Le 25 avril 1915, lors de l'abandon de la station de Krossno, en Galicie, par le régiment d'infanterie de . . . les soldats blessés et désarmés, qui n'avaient pu suivre le régiment, car ils se mouvaient à peine ou rampaient sur les mains, furent achevés à coups de baïonnette ou de crosse par les détachements austro-allemands qui les rejoignaient.

Les faits sus-mentionnés ont été confirmés par le sous-officier en second au régiment de . . . , Serge Iakovlef Soudarikof, âgé de 30 ans, interrogé en qualité de témoin par le juge d'instruction du I-er arrondissement de la ville de Kharkof.

Le 12 mai 1915, après que les „sotnias“ de „plastounis“ à pied eurent évacué les tranchées situées sous la localité de Bobrovka, à 40 verstes de Iaroslav, en Galicie, celles-ci furent occupées par des troupes de la Garde allemande, qui, de leurs baïonnettes, en rejetèrent ceux de nos blessés qui s'y trouvaient. Nikita Davidenko, sous-officier, se trouvait à cent pas des tranchées occupées par les Allemands; il fut témoin de ce que ces derniers, à coups de baïonnette, rejetaient au dehors 4 ou 5 de nos blessés, dont les gémissements arrivaient distinctement jusqu'à lui. Lorsque, le 15 mai de la même année, nos troupes se portèrent en avant, Davidenko vit dans les tranchées abandonnées le 12 mai beaucoup de cosaques achevés à coups de baïonnette ou de sabre.

Ce qui vient d'être relaté a été confirmé par la déposition de Davidenko, interrogé comme témoin par le juge d'instruction du 2-e arrondissement de la ville de Kharkof.

Le 7 août 1914, dans la Prusse Orientale, au combat sous Gumbinen, lorsque les Russes battirent en retraite, Alexandre Lappo, 26 ans, sous-officier en second au régiment ... resta sur le champ de bataille, blessé au dos par un éclat d'obus.

Il vit bientôt, venant à la suite de leur détachement, précédés d'un officier et d'un porte-drapeau, un groupe d'Allemands, au nombre d'une quinzaine, qui fusillaient les blessés russes rencontrés sur leur passage, quoiqu'aucun de ces derniers ne fit feu et que le combat eût lieu au loin.

Apercevant Lappo, un des soldats de ce groupe le blessa d'un coup de fusil au coude gauche, et, d'un second coup de feu, acheva un soldat tartare blessé, gisant auprès, et qui, après quelques mouvements convulsifs, resta immobile. Lappo jeta un cri, arraché par la douleur ressentie au coude, ce qui attira l'attention de l'officier allemand, lequel, d'un coup de revolver, blessa Lappo au cou. Celui-ci perdit connaissance et ne revint à lui que le soir, lorsqu'il fut relevé par des infirmiers russes. C'est alors qu'il s'aperçut qu'il n'avait plus au bras gauche un bracelet en cuir et une montre en acier oxydé, d'une valeur de 10 roubles, évidemment enlevés par les Allemands.

Il n'a pu être établi à quel corps de troupes appartenaient cet officier et les hommes qu'il commandait; mais à l'affaire de Stallupönen, le 4 août 1914, à laquelle Lappo avait participé, les pattes d'épaulette des Allemands tués portaient le № 41.

Ce qui précède a été confirmé par l'examen médico-légal et la déposition de Lappo, interrogé sous la foi du serment, en qualité de victime, par le juge d'instruction près le tribunal de Vitebsk, pour l'arrondissement de Gorodock.

Auto-da-fé de blessés.

Déposition du soldat Nicolas Sëmenof Dorojka.

Dans la seconde moitié de juin, le régiment auquel appartenait le témoin prit part à un combat sous Ivangorod; l'engagement terminé, le régiment se prépara au repos. Un certain nombre de soldats, dont le témoin, aidèrent les brancardiers à transporter les blessés dans un hangar en bois, recouvert de chaume, situé au bout du village. Selon le dire des brancardiers, on y porta de 66 à 68 blessés, à peu près. A 11 heures du soir, il éclata soudain une vive fusillade: le village avait été cerné par l'ennemi. Le témoin, saisissant son fusil, battit en retraite avec trois de ses camarades; mais, dans l'obscurité, alla donner contre une tranchée allemande, fut fait prisonnier et désarmé, ainsi que ses compagnons. Les quatre captifs furent amenés au hangar dans lequel le témoin avait aidé à transférer les blessés. Un officier présent sur les lieux donna en allemand un ordre à ses hommes; puis, ramassant lui-même de la paille répandue auprès du hangar, en plaça une brassée à l'angle du bâtiment et y mit le feu avec des allumettes. Le témoin déclare que son coeur se glaça quand il comprit que l'officier incendiait le hangar. La paille flamba immédiatement; la flamme lécha les murs de bois; et, quand elle eut atteint la toiture, des cris déchirants retentirent à l'intérieur, poussés par nos blessés qui demandaient secours. A ce moment l'officier qui avait mis le feu au hangar s'avança vers les prisonniers restés debout, et, sans prononcer une parole, tira à bout portant sur un camarade du témoin, qui s'affaissa sur le sol; puis, frappa d'un objet quelconque un autre des camarades au ventre, d'où le témoin, à la lueur de l'incendie, vit sortir les entrailles.

Dorojka, en cet instant, se jeta de côté, franchit d'un bond un groupe de soldats allemands et prit la fuite. Il essuya trois

coups de feu qui ne lui causèrent aucun mal, et, après avoir marché toute la nuit, rencontra une de nos patrouilles.

Le témoin Dorojka a déposé ainsi qu'il est exposé plus haut, à l'interrogatoire qu'il subit pardevant le juge d'instruction du 1-er arrondissement du district du Dnièpr.

Usage abusif du drapeau blanc.

Le 24 novembre 1914, à la lisière d'un bois, entre les villages de Zavady et d'Irjontsy, district Wlovtshovsk, gouvernement de Kiéletz, un avion allemand atterrit, endommagé par le feu de nos troupes. Apercevant non loin un groupe d'habitants du pays, l'officier-pilote et le sous-officier observateur tirèrent des coups de fusil sur ce groupe. Au bruit des détonations des cosaques accoururent des villages voisins et ouvrirent le feu sur les aviateurs. L'officier fut tué, tandis que le sous-officier, blessé, se couchait à terre; puis, tirant un mouchoir blanc, exprimait l'intention de se rendre. Mais, à peine un des cosaques s'était-il sans précautions d'aucune sorte approché de d'Allemand, ce dernier le blessait mortellement d'un coup de revolver. Ceci se passait sous les yeux d'un habitant de la contrée, Dembovsky, qui confirma son récit lors de l'interrogatoire que, sur réquisition de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête, lui fit subir le juge d'instruction, délégué aux affaires spéciales, près le tribunal de Varsovie.

Le Président de la Commission Extraordinaire d'Enquête,

Sénateur *Alexis Krivtsoff*.

For obvious reasons the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry sends out the first pages of a new series of cases of German brutality without portraits and without publishing names.

The cases of the unfortunate persons here referred to are numbered 27 and 14.

These pages contain the detailed evidence of female victims, given under oath and based upon medical examinations, confirming their statements,

Violation of a Sister of Mercy

A Sister of Mercy, whom we shall call X...., a young girl of 17, belonging to the sixth class of a gymnasium school, was seized by German and Austrian troops about the 20th of April 1915 at the station of Radzivilishki while travelling in a military train on leave of absence.

In spite of her assurance, that she was a Sister of Mercy, and although she wore the dress of a Sister, with the sign of the Red Cross exhibited on a band on one of her arms, X.... was arrested by German and Austrian officers and sent to the estate of Bubio, 15 miles from Radzivilishki station, where she was shut up in a cart-shed and left for 3 days without food.

On the fourth day several officers visited X.... in the cart-shed and demanded information from her as to the positions of the Russian troops. They then beat her with swords and pricked her body with needles. On the same day X.... was taken to the third

line of German entrenchments and lodged in a „dug-out“, occupied by German officers. Here she was violated, and during a week and a half several German officers frequently committed violent acts of copulation with her and kept her in the „dug-out“ without clothes under a special guard.

At last X... succeeded in escaping from the trenches. With the help of a Lithuanian peasant she made her way to the Russian positions, where she arrived in an almost unconscious state. First medical aid was at once administered, as it was found that X... was suffering from inflammation of the peritoneum and cellular membrane surrounding the matrix. On examining her for marks of violence, bruises were visible in the region of the shoulder and on the thighs and legs.

Violation of a girl X.

At the beginning of the war, when the Germans entered the town of Kalish, a girl named X... was arrested and led out to the public place, or square for execution. Here the Germans tied her to a tree and told her that she would be shot. Others of the inhabitants, also condemned to be shot, were drawn up on the same open space. Amongst these victims was an acquaintance of the girl X..., a student named N. Davuidov. The German soldiers proceeded to stab this Davuidov with their bayonets before the very eyes of the girl X..., and then they tore out hair from his head and finally shot him dead. This scene of murder gave the girl such a shock, that she fainted. On coming to her senses she found herself in an apartment,

occupied by German officers. No sooner did she revive, than one of these officers committed a rape upon her and destroyed her virginity. During the following days she remained a captive in the same apartment, where she was forced to yield to the brutal lust of the officer, who first violated her, and to the solicitations of two of his comrades, who threatened to cut her to pieces with their swords if she offered any resistance. These officers then told her, „*that the Germans had invented a new method of making war on the Russians, which would exterminate them by means of poisonous gas without the waste of any more bullets*“.

The girl was subsequently rescued by the Russian troops.

A combined judicial and medical examination of the girl X... on the 4th of June established the fact, that she had been deprived of her maidenhood and an inflammatory condition of the sexual organs was still plainly visible.

Unprovoked Murder of Wounded Soldiers.

On the 19th of April 1915, when an infantry regiment withdrew from a position, situated near the village of Bannitsa, in the Carpathians, the enemy's troops, on swarming into the abandoned trenches on the nearest hill, bayoneted to death all the Russian wounded infantrymen and also the wounded artillerymen in charge of two guns, which had been left behind.

Private Fedor Chukorov, who saw from the summit of the hill how the wounded were being killed, states, that the troops, who took the trenches, were Germans dressed in Austrian uniforms.

The above circumstances have been confirmed by the evidence of Chukorov, who was interrogated as a witness by the Examining Magistrate of the 6th ward of the town of Kharkov.

On the 25th of April 1915, when an infantry regiment retreated from the station of Krosno in Galicia, the unarmed wounded soldiers, who were unable to follow, and many of whom were crawling away on their hands and knees, were overtaken and stabbed to death, or despatched by blows with the butt ends of rifles by the Austro-Hungarian troops.

The foregoing facts have been confirmed by the evidence of junior subaltern B... of the regiment, Serge Yakovlev Sudarikov, aged 30, who was interrogated as a witness by the Examining Magistrate of the 1st ward of Kharkov.

On the 12th of May 1915, near the village of Bobrovka, 40 versts from Yaroslav in Galicia, after the withdrawal of the „platoon sotnias“ of dismounted cossacks from their trenches, the latter were occupied by German guardsmen, who drove out the Russian wounded at the point of the bayonet.

Private Nikita Davidenko, who was 100 paces from the trenches taken by the Germans, saw how they used their bayonets to thrust out 4 or 5 of his wounded comrades, whose groans were distinctly audible.

When the Russian troops advanced on the 15th of May, Davidenko saw the bodies of many cossacks, who had been bayoneted or sabred to death in the trenches, abandoned on May the 12th.

The above facts have been confirmed by the evidence of Davidenko, who was interrogated as a witness by the Examining Magistrate of the 2nd ward of Kharkov.

On the retirement of the Russians after the battle near Gum-
oinnen, in Eastern Prussion, the 7th of August 1914, a junior su-
baltern, named Alexander Lappo, aged 26, who had been wounded
in the back by a piece of an exploded shrapnel, was left behind,
lying on the field.

He soon perceived a group of about 15 Germans, headed by
an officer and a colour sergeant, following up their detachments,
and shooting all the wounded Russians within reach as they marched
along. There was no consideration for the fact, that these Russians had
been struck down at a considerable distance from the actual fighting,
without having fired a shot. One of the Germans in this squad
caught sight of Lappo and fired at him with his rifle. Lappo received
the bullet in his left elbow. A second shot, fired by the same German
soldier, hit a wounded Russian private Tartar, lying next to Lappo.
The Tartar made one or two convulsive movements and expired.
The pain from the wound in his elbow made Lappo moan rather
loudly, and this attracted the attention of the German officer, who
at once levelled his revolver and shot him in the neck. This second
wound rendered Lappo unconscious and he only recovered his
senses towards evening, when he was picked up by Russian Red Cross
men. Lappo then noticed, that his leather wrist band with a black
watch, worth 10 roubles, had been stolen, evidently by the Germans.

It is not certain to what troops of the Enemy's forces this
German officer and the men under his command belonged, but the
German soldiers killed in the battle near Stalupenen, on the 4th
of August 1914, in which Lappo took part, had the figures „41“
on their shoulder straps.

The above described facts have been verified and established
by a combined judicial and medical examination, and by the evidence
of Lappo, given under oath before the Examining Magistrate of the
Circuit Court of Vitebsk, district of Gorodok.

Burning the russian wounded.

Evidence of the private Nicholas Semenov Dorozhka.

In the latter half of June the regiment, in which this witness was one of the rank and file, took part in a battle near Ivangorod. When the fighting was over, the regiment settled down to rest. Some of the men, however, went to help the sanitary attendants to bring in the wounded and place them in a wooden cart-house, or shed, roofed with straw, at one end of the village. According to statements, made by the Red Cross bearers, from 66 to 68 men were lodged in this building. At 11 o'clock at night there was a sudden and violent rattle of rifle fire. The village had been surrounded by the Germans. The witness seized his rifle and started to leave with three comrades, but in the darkness they stumbled into a German trench, and were taken prisoners. Their weapons were taken from them, and all four Russians were led to the same cartshed, to which the witness Dorozhka had assisted to carry the Russian wounded. A German officer on the spot gave an order to his German soldiers and then he gathered up an armful of the straw, littered over the floor of the shed, placed it against one of the corners of the building, and set fire to it with a match. The witness declares, that he almost fainted when he saw this officer setting fire to the shed. The straw blazed up at once, the flames began to envelop the wooden walls, and, when it reached the roof, piercing shrieks came from the wounded inmates, calling for help. At this moment the officer, who fired the shed, approached the prisoners, who were standing near, and, without uttering a word, he discharged his revolver point blank at one of the comrades of the witness, who instantly fell to the ground dead. Then this officer struck witness's other comrade with something in the lower part of the body, and by the light of the conflagration witness noticed, that the man's intestines

were protruding. Dorozhka rushed to one side and managed to break away from a group of German soldiers and escape unhurt, although three shots were fired after him. The witness, after tramping all night, fell in with one of the Russian pickets.

The foregoing was deposed to by the witness Dorozhka on examination by the Examining Magistrate of the 1st Dnieprovsky District.

Misuse of the White Flag.

On the 24-th of November 1914 a German aeroplane was fired at by Russian troops and brought to the ground on the edge of a wood, between the villages of Zavada and Irshontsa, in the district of Vloshtsov and province of Kielce.

The German officer-pilot and his subaltern noticed a group of the local inhabitants, not far off, and began to fire at them with their rifles. The noise of the firing reached the ears of a number of cossacks in the nearest village, and they at once hastened to the spot, surrounded the aeroplane and its occupants and opened fire on them. The German officer was killed, and the subaltern, falling to the ground, drew out a white pocket-handkerchief and offered to surrender, but when one of the cossacks incautiously approached, the German mortally wounded him with a revolver shot.

The above described scene was enacted in the presence of a local inhabitant, named Domkovsky, who deposed to the truth of the foregoing account before the Examining Magistrate for cases of importance of the Warsaw District Court by order of the Exaraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

ALEXIS KRIVTSOV,

Senator,

President of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry.

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